



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Annual Report of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 2021

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

[gov.ie/housing](https://www.gov.ie/housing)

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Secretary General's Statement

Our Department has a wide and varied remit – covering responsibilities as diverse as housing, water, local government, planning, our electoral system, heritage, fire & emergency management and Met Éireann. Our work touches on the lives of everyone in the country and we are focussed on delivering on all of these obligations in a highly planned, focused and effective manner.



To provide this focus, and in accordance with Public Service Management legislation, in 2021 the Department published a new Statement of Strategy. This Statement of Strategy for 2021-2025 defines a new mission statement for the Department and identifies six high-level strategic goals across the areas of Housing, Water, Local Government, Planning, Climate Action and Heritage. Each goal is comprised of several key objectives in line with the Department's commitments in the Programme for Government – Our Shared Future, the Climate Action Plan and the National Planning Framework.

This annual report reflects the key achievements of the Department in 2021, in striving to fulfil those Goals and objectives, despite the continued challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the year, several key pieces of legislation were enacted to support the Department's efforts in achieving its strategic goals, including the Affordable Housing Act 2021, the Land Development Agency Act 2021 and the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 among others.

Crucially, in September of 2021, the Government published a new and ambitious housing strategy, "Housing for All", to support affordable home ownership, eradicate homelessness and increase housing supply, including through efficient use of existing stock. This strategy brought a renewed impetus to our work to meet the challenges within the housing market.

Total expenditure on housing programmes in 2021 amounted to over €2.85 billion, an increase of 8% on 2020 expenditure. This included almost €1.7 billion which was spent on the delivery of new social homes through the various build, acquisition and leasing programmes. A €31.2 million Voids Programme supported the restoration of 2,425 units in total into use.

Funding of €223.5 million was provided to local authorities in Exchequer funding towards the provision of homeless services. A new National Homeless Action Committee (NHAC) was established, chaired by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and has prioritised the development of a Youth Homelessness Strategy. The issue of homelessness remains a challenging one and will continue to be a priority for our Department.

Beyond housing, the National Marine Planning Framework was launched in July of 2021, outlining the vision, objectives and marine planning policies for all marine-based human activities.

Several other key achievements from 2021 include the provision of over €1.27 billion for domestic water services; completion of the pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Electoral Reform Bill by the Joint Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage; more than a dozen research projects in the area of climate modelling following a research call by Met Éireann, 70 Special Areas of Conservation formally designated; and the first draft of the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan submitted to stakeholders for consideration.

We have a very challenging remit and 2021 was a very busy year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Ministers for their ongoing support and leadership during 2021. I wish also to acknowledge the contribution of all the agencies, local authorities and other bodies who work in partnership with this Department to help us achieve our goals. Finally, and significantly, I want to thank our staff for their continuing dedication during the challenges of the past year. Despite the pandemic and the demands of our various portfolios, the Department's employees showed the qualities and dedication that people expect from their public services and ensured we were able to deliver all of the achievements set out within this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Graham Doyle'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Graham' and last name 'Doyle' clearly distinguishable.

Graham Doyle
Secretary General

Who We Are

Our Mission

The Department's mission is to support sustainable development, with a particular focus on strategic planning, the efficient delivery of well-planned homes in vibrant communities, the sustainable management of our water resources, the nurturing of Ireland's heritage and the promotion of effective local government.



Our Strategic Goals

- A.** To provide a framework that ensures a sustainable housing system in Ireland with a supply of good quality housing to match needs.
- B.** To provide a framework for the sustainable management of water resources from source to sea.
- C.** To support and enable democratic, responsive and effective local government, effective electoral management and high quality fire services and emergency management.
- D.** To ensure that planning and building in our regions, communities and maritime area contributes to deliver sustainable and balanced development.
- E.** In the context of climate change and the impact of weather on Ireland, serve society through the production and communication of reliable weather and climate information to protect life and property and to further enhance Met Éireann's role as the authoritative voice on meteorology and climatology in Ireland.
- F.** To conserve, protect, manage and present our built, natural, archaeological heritage, and our biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, including to the environment as well as a support to local communities, regional economic development and sustainable employment

Our Values

Our values sit within the wider values and standards frameworks set out in the Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour, the Code of Ethics, the Dignity at Work Policy and the Civil Service Renewal Plan. They inform everything that we do in the Department in delivering for the public:

- Integrity and professionalism
- Consistent high quality performance
- Openness and transparency
- Flexibility, responsiveness, innovation and learning
- Consultation and partnership
- Commitment to society and citizens
- Pursuit of effectiveness, efficiency and value for money

The work of the Department in 2021 was carried out through ten Divisions – Planning; Housing Affordability, Inclusion and Homelessness; Housing Policy, Legislation and Governance; Social Housing Delivery; Water; Local Government; Corporate and Business Support; Met Éireann; Heritage; and the Local Government Audit Service.

Locations

The Department is based in five main locations listed below along with other smaller locations throughout the country:

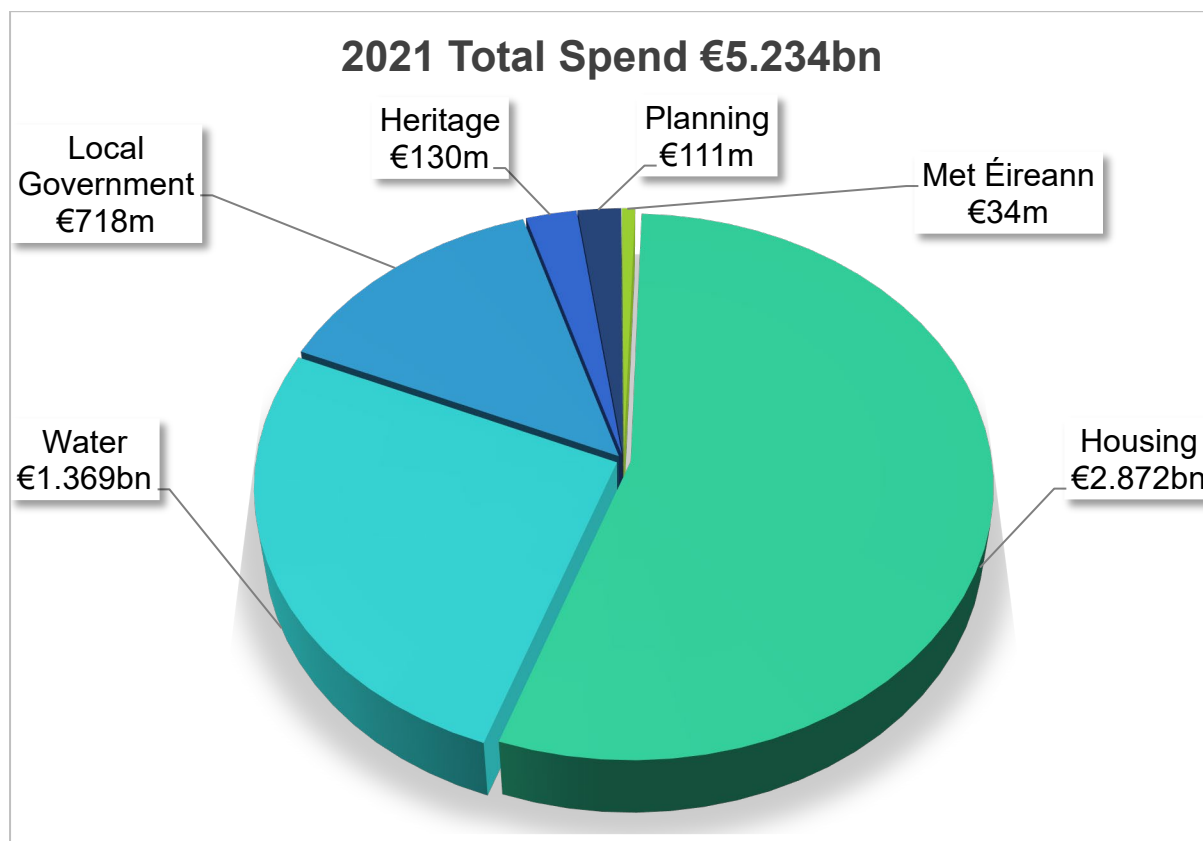
- Custom House, Dublin D01 W6X0
- Newtown Road, Wexford Y35 AP90
- Government Offices, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 E8N6
- Met Éireann Headquarters, Glasnevin Hill, Dublin 9 D09 Y921
- National Parks and Wildlife Service, 90 King Street North, Dublin D07 N7C



Us and Our Agencies

Much of our work is carried out in close cooperation with the 31 local authorities and a number of specific agencies that are charged with regulatory, policy support and implementation functions relating to our areas of activity. Details in relation to our main agencies are summarised in the table at Appendix 5.

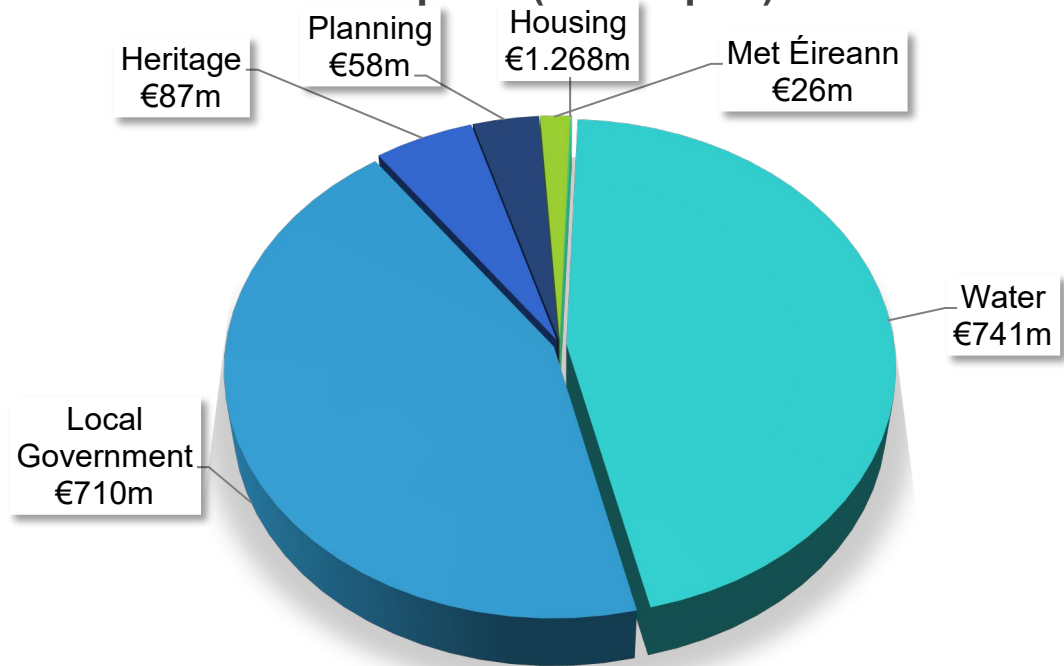
2021 Spending



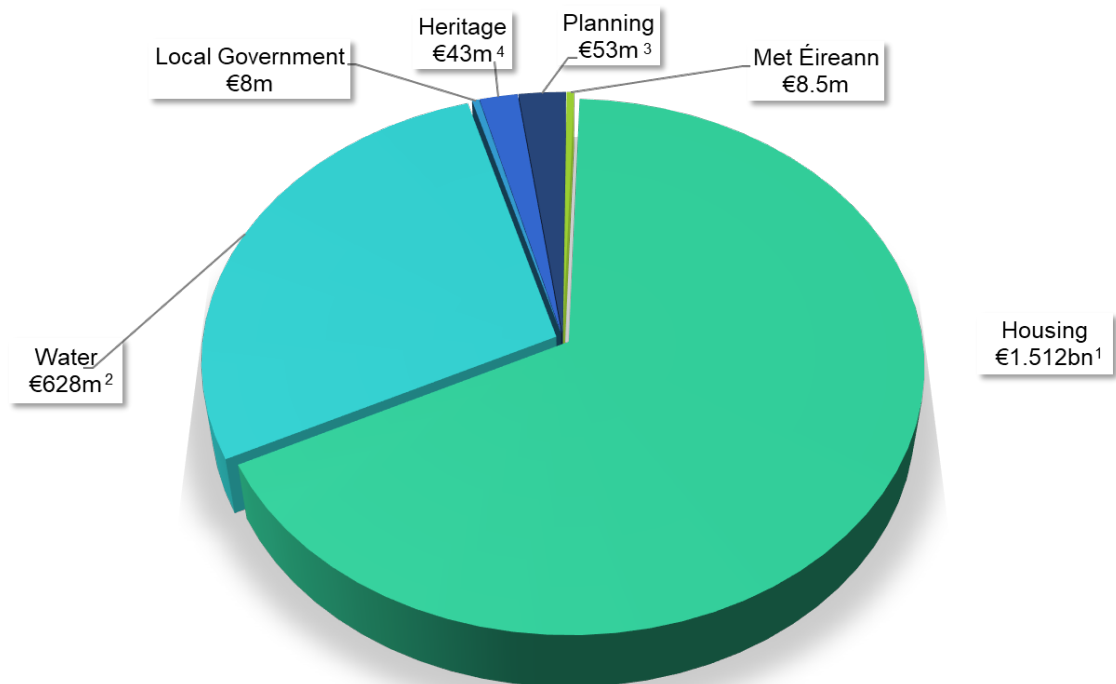
Gross expenditure in respect of the Department's six strategic programmes reached €5.234 billion in 2021. Departmental (Exchequer) expenditure of €5.003 billion was supplemented by capital carryover from 2020 of €140.5m plus €91.49 million from Local Property Tax (LPT) receipts, which was used by certain local authorities to fund a range of housing programmes. In addition, total expenditure of €1.23 billion (comprising €699m from the Department's Vote and €531m from LPT) was managed through the Local Government Fund in 2021, primarily for the purposes of recouping the costs of the COVID-19 related Rates Waiver and the payment of annual LPT allocations to local authorities.

The Exchequer funding element (€5.143 billion) comprised €2.890 billion in current expenditure and €2.253 billion in capital expenditure (including €140.5m capital carryover).

2021 Current Spend (Exchequer) €2.890bn



2021 Capital Spend (Exchequer) €2,253bn*



* Includes €140.5m Capital Carryover from 2020

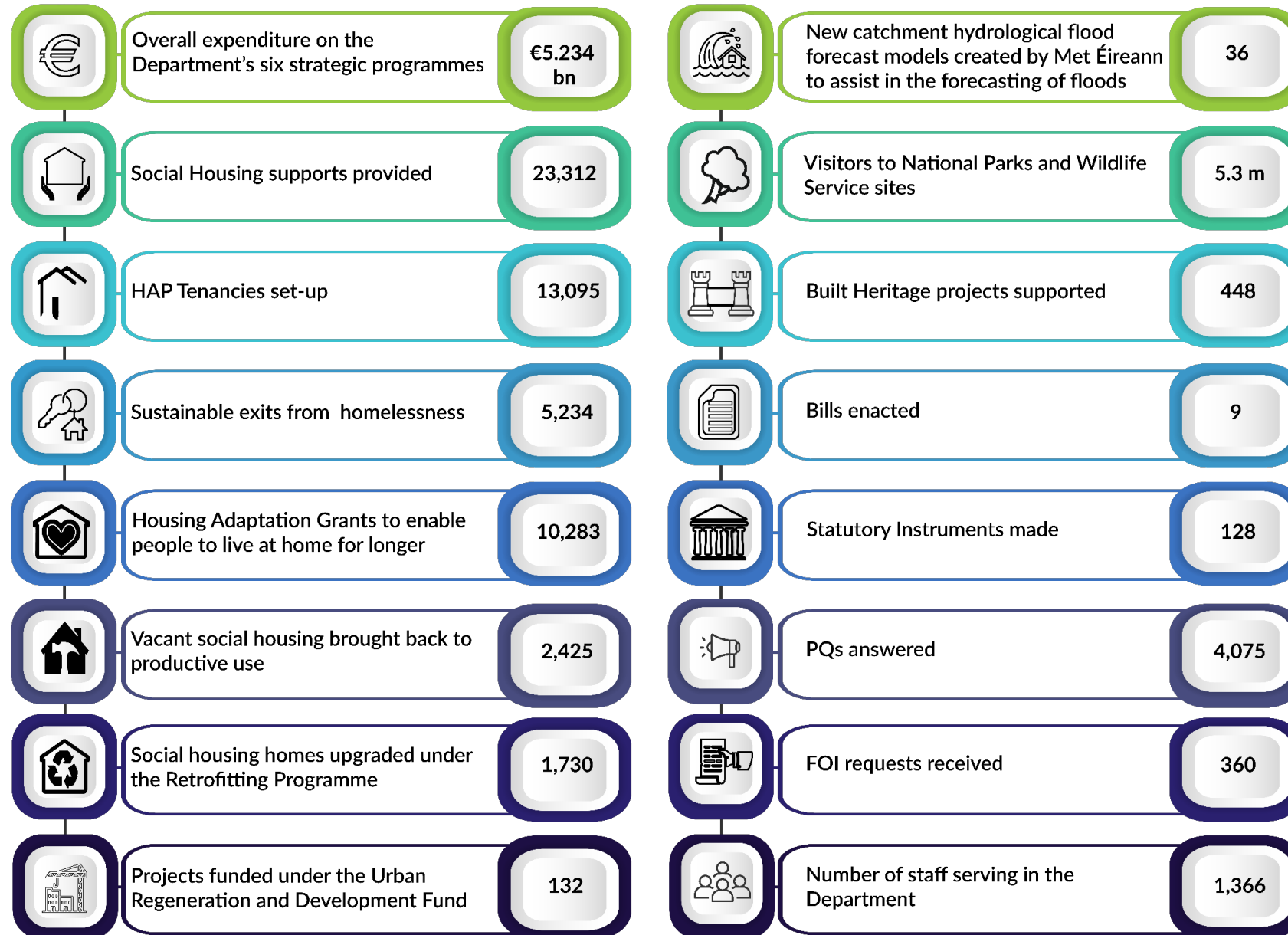
1 Includes €87.2m Capital Carryover

2 Includes €10m Capital Carryover

3 Includes €40.3m Capital Carryover

4 Includes €3m Capital Carryover

The Department by Numbers in 2021



Strategic Goal A: To provide a framework that ensures a sustainable housing system in Ireland with a supply of good quality housing to match needs

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
1. Lead the Development of the Housing for All Strategy and Action Plan	<p>1.1 Engage with stakeholders across all relevant Government Departments and Agencies as well as relevant industry and representative bodies</p> <p>1.2 Identify key measures needed to support the development of social housing, rental and cost rental and affordable sectors as well as the wider housing market in line with Programme for Government commitments and in response to the specific needs of key sectors such as those experiencing homelessness, the elderly, people with disabilities and members of the Traveller community</p> <p>1.3 Underpin measures with a robust evidence base</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective and cohesive measures to address the range of housing challenges identified • Identification and Cross Departmental agreement on the key actions needed to address housing and homelessness challenges • Alignment with National Development Plan and National Planning Framework Objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets for investment and delivery • Targets for housing and rental standards • Policies and Legislative Measures identified • Roles and Responsibilities identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government published the Housing for All action plan in September 2021, with four overarching objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting home ownership and increasing affordability 2. Eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion 3. Increasing new housing supply 4. Addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock • Targets for social housing delivery were issued to local authorities in September 2021, for the period 2022-2026 • Housing for All sets a target for the inspection of rental properties, which is 25% of all private residential tenancies. A total of 20,240 inspections took place in 2021. This was a reduction on previous years, due to COVID-19 restrictions • In response to COVID-19 restrictions, some local authorities undertook virtual inspections. This initiative was led by Dublin City Council and supported by the Department. Of the 20,240 inspections conducted last year 5,109 were virtual • The Affordable Housing Act 2021 was enacted on 23 July 2021. It contains the following four measures to improve the supply of affordable homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme to enable the development of affordable homes on local authority lands; • Introducing Cost Rental tenancies as a new form of tenure; • Establishing the First Home Shared Equity Scheme primarily to support affordability-constrained first-time buyers purchasing newly constructed homes through the private market; and • Expanding Part V planning requirements to increase the 10% contribution requirement to 20% and to apply it to cost rental as well as social and affordable housing

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>1.4 Align measures with resource and capacity availability set out in the National Development Plan (NDP) investment priorities and underpinning the National Planning Framework (NPF)</p> <p>1.5 Develop comparisons internationally where appropriate</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of Housing Need Demand Assessment tool in April 2021 – details below
2. Support the delivery of 50,000 social homes with an emphasis on new builds	<p>2.1 Set annual targets for individual local authorities and ensure effective delivery of programmes, in conjunction with the Housing Delivery Coordination Office</p> <p>2.2 Support delivery of age-friendly housing and housing for homeless households and for people with disabilities</p> <p>2.3 Support appropriate mix of housing size in accordance with the Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of annual targets by local authorities Increased delivery of age-friendly housing and housing for people with disabilities Housing mix delivered in accordance with need Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 2021 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Actions EPBD Regulations for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall number of social homes delivered Percentage of social housing homes delivered by local authorities Percentage of social housing homes delivered by AHBs Number of homes delivered under Capital Assistance Scheme Completion of CAP 2021 Actions Completion of EPBD Regulations Number of social housing units delivered by CALF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Housing for All, the Government will deliver 47,600 new build social homes and 3,500 social homes through long-term leasing in the period 2022-2026. Social housing build and leasing targets were issued to individual local authorities in September 2021 Regulations were signed in July 2021 to implement the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) requirements which require the installation of appropriate infrastructure to enable the installation of recharging points for Electric Vehicles for new buildings, and existing buildings undergoing major renovation and with more than ten car parking spaces Regulations also require the installation of a minimum number of recharging points for all existing buildings other than dwellings with more than twenty car parking spaces by 1 January 2025 Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) delivered 2,813 new social homes in 2021 A review of CALF commenced in Q4 2021 42 homes were acquired under the Housing Agency Acquisitions (HAA) fund for social housing use in 2021.

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>2.4 Implement the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and Climate Action Building Regulations</p> <p>2.5 Ensure the effective operation of the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) as a vehicle to assist Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to increase the supply of social housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective delivery of housing programmes by AHBs • Efficient and cost effective management of CALF 		<p>The fund also completed the acquisition of 67 properties on behalf of local authorities in 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HAA fund team began supporting the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth in 2021 and is assisting them in acquisition of properties for use as Phase 2 accommodation, as set out in the White Paper on Ending Direct Provision, for person's applying for International Protection • A review of HAA fund was initiated in 2021 and will be completed in Q1 2022
3. To provide for social housing reform and a robust evidence base for housing policy	<p>3.1 Bring forward social housing reforms including a standardised differential rents scheme, support the use of Choice-Based Letting in social housing and a review of the Tenant Purchase Scheme</p> <p>3.2 Continue to develop evidence bases for housing policy, including through the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA) project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social housing system is more effective • State and local authorities are in a better position to consistently measure housing need and demand and plan accordingly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social housing reforms brought forward during lifetime of Programme for Government • HNDA Tool rolled out to local authorities by Q2 2021 • HNDA Guidance published by Q2 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Standardised Differential Rents Scheme, the Department concluded an analysis of local authority differential rent schemes and identified potential models for a standardised national scheme as an alternative to the devolved schemes currently operating across the 31 local authorities • The analysis and scoping work will inform proposals for a standardised model that delivers greater consistency, fairness, sustainability and progressivity across all local authorities. Proposals will be brought to Government for consideration in line with Housing for All commitments in 2022 • The Department continued to liaise with local authorities on the rollout of Choice Based Letting nationally, including a survey of local authority progress in Q3 2021. By September 2021, more than half of local authorities (18) were operating a CBL system, while others were running pilot schemes to inform a wider roll-out of CBL in their respective areas in 2021 and 2022

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tenant Purchase Scheme was reviewed in line with Programme for Government and Housing for All commitments in 2021, with administrative and legislative changes approved by Government in December 2021 • Key changes include reducing the minimum reckonable income required to qualify under the scheme from €15,000 to €12,500 – this will allow older tenants, whose only income might be the contributory or non-contributory State Pension, to qualify to buy their homes if they have the financial means to do so. The time an applicant is required to be in receipt of social housing supports to be able to apply under the scheme has also been revised, from one to 10 years. The changes will come into effect from 1 February 2022 • The Department collaborated with the Scottish Centre for Housing Market Analysis to produce an Irish version of the Scottish Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA) and its associated HNDA Tool. This was published in April 2021, together with a repository of housing-related data. The HNDA Tool, projects the future need for housing by tenure type. These projections are based on incomes, house prices and rents, structural demand for housing, existing need and projections for how these indicators will evolve over the coming years • Using the HNDA methodology, and incorporating the Economic and Social Research Institute's research on Regional Demographics and Structural Housing Demand at a County Level, the Department produced an estimate of housing need to 2030. <p>It underpins the target of an average of 33,000 homes per year in Housing for All. By using the HNDA Tool, that total can be broken down by tenure type</p>

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on all of the information available, including the resources made available under the Plan, information available from the HNDA Tool and the annual Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA), housing targets were prepared and issued to local authorities following the publication of Housing for All. Guidance on the preparation of a HNDA, an Excel based HNDA Tool and associated instructions were published and training sessions were also held with local authorities during 2021
4. To support the adequate supply of and supports for rental accommodation while ensuring equity and fairness for landlords and tenants	<p>4.1 Ensure the effective operation of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)</p> <p>4.2 Ensure HAP levels are adequate to support vulnerable households while we increase the supply of social housing</p> <p>4.3 Strengthen and manage the Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme to ensure that it is helping those who need it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient and cost effective management of HAP to allow households to secure property to meet their needs Avoiding additional pressures on the rental or social housing sectors A broader understanding of the market through the further development of the RTB Rent Index and the implementation of Annual Registration Implementation of policies to incentivise landlords to enter or to remain in the residential property market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of households supported by HAP Number of MTR properties Number of households benefiting from the MTR scheme Fewer disputes raised due to landlords' and tenants' awareness of their rights and responsibilities and any changes to the legislation that may impact them Rent index is based on better rental data Increase in, or stabilisation of, number of landlords in the residential rental sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13,095 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) tenancies set up in 2021 678 Mortgage to Rent (MTR) cases were completed in 2021 720 cases were being actively progressed at the end of 2021 At the end of 2021, 1,682 families had been supported to remain in their home through the MTR scheme A total of 5,012 individuals are benefitting from the scheme: 2,738 adults and 2,274 children The Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) received €11 million funding for its operational costs in 2021, an additional €2 million on the previous year's funding of €9 million Legislation introduced to extend COVID-19 emergency protections <p>The Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2021 provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of 2% cap Introduction of Tenancies of Unlimited Duration

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>4.4 Resource and support the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), re-examine the recommended policy options of the Working Group on the Tax and Fiscal Treatment of Landlords</p> <p>4.5 Reform the Fair Deal scheme</p> <p>4.6 Amend the Residential Tenancies Acts 2004-2020</p> <p>4.7 Develop new funding methods for developing Cost Rental housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved security of tenure for tenants Short-Term Letting Regulations enforced and implemented Eligible households can avail of MTR New Cost Rental Equity Loan Funding model for accelerated delivery of Cost Rental homes by AHBs in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in letting activity Increase in long term leasing of dwellings Properties formerly used for short-term letting returned to the long-term rental market 	<p>The Residential Tenancies (No.2) Act 2021 provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of Rent Pressure Zones to end of 2024 Restriction on up-front payments by tenants Introduction of Harmonised Index of the Consumer Price (HICP)
5. Provide Policy and Funding Framework to Address Homelessness	<p>5.1 Manage regional authority expenditure programmes and improve reporting and data to measure performance and outputs</p> <p>5.2 Develop a National Youth Homelessness Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective management of homeless budget and improved reporting data made available Increased supply of appropriate emergency accommodation Increased numbers of individuals accessing Housing First 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of units of accommodation available for families Number of beds available for single adults Number of individuals supported in Housing First Number of households prevented from entering emergency accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of €223.5 million was provided to local authorities in Exchequer funding towards the provision of homeless services in 2021. Effective measures are in place to manage regional authority expenditure programmes At the end of 2021 the total number of homeless individuals was 8,917. This represented a year on year increase of 717 individuals (8.7%), but a decrease of 1,597 (15%) on the highest level recorded in October 2019. There was a total of 5,234 exits from homelessness achieved in 2021, an 11% decrease on the 5,886 exits achieved in 2020 An upgrade to the Pathway Accommodation & Support System (PASS) was successfully rolled out in June 2021, with improved data architecture and user interface, as well as more accurate reporting of child homelessness

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>5.3 Support local authorities to provide emergency accommodation to ensure that there is sufficient high quality emergency accommodation available to households experiencing homeless</p> <p>5.4 Support delivery of Housing First Programme to increase the numbers of homeless individuals accessing a Housing First tenancy</p> <p>5.5 Increase homeless prevention measures</p> <p>5.6 Support local authorities to introduce measures to reduce the number of households spending extended periods of time in emergency circumstances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased numbers of households prevented from entering emergency accommodation Reduction in time spent in emergency accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of adults and children exiting Homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As provided for in Housing for All, the National Homeless Action Committee (NHAC) was established in Q4 2021. The first meeting took place in December 2021 and it was agreed that the development of a Youth Homelessness Strategy would be one of the first priorities for the committee The Department continued to support the objective to provide more suitable emergency accommodation for families experiencing homelessness. By the end of 2021 there were 35 family hubs operating providing almost 800 units of accommodation. A further 300 additional permanent beds for singles were also introduced in the Dublin Region in 2021. To ensure high standards in accommodation, the National Quality Standards Framework (NQS) is in place nationally for NGO operated services and the Dublin Region reframed the standards to apply to Private Emergency Accommodation in Dublin in 2021 The new Housing First National Implementation Plan was published on 20 December 2021. The new implementation plan extends the programme and expands Housing First targets. 1,319 new Housing First tenancies will be introduced over the next five years Under the Housing Agency Acquisitions fund (HAA), work is ongoing with five local authorities to deliver Housing First tenancies in urban areas. 40 Housing First properties were acquired in 2021 - 16 using HAA fund and 24 on behalf of local authorities Guidance to support local authorities to prepare Statutory Homelessness Action Plans, was issued on 23 December 2021. At the first meeting of the National Homeless Action Committee (NHAC) in December all stakeholders were asked to submit proposals on Homelessness Prevention actions

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
6. Support the Delivery of High Quality Homes	<p>6.1 Promote sustainable communities, tenure diversity and proximity to services</p> <p>6.2 Develop the necessary regulatory and control systems including commitments under EU green deal objectives</p> <p>6.3 Examine the issue of defective housing</p> <p>6.4 Implement the Defective Concrete Blocks (DCB) Grant Scheme in the counties of Donegal and Mayo</p> <p>6.5 Oversight of Pyrite Resolution Board and Pyrite Remediation Scheme</p> <p>6.6 Develop standard internal layouts for social housing</p> <p>6.7 Examine the creation of an independent Building Standards Regulator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of sustainable social housing • Building Regulatory Advisory Body established • Effective engagement with EU on Construction Products Register • Effective oversight of pyrite remediation • Examination of defective housing and potential measures to be taken completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of homes remediated for pyrite • Number of homes remediated for DCB in Mayo and Donegal • Building Regulatory Advisory Body established by 2022 • Report from the Independent Working Group on defective housing • Publish standard internal layouts for social housing • Report on creation of Building Standards Regulator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A working Group was established in March 2021 to examine fire safety, structural safety and water ingress defects in purpose built apartment buildings, including duplexes, constructed between 1991 and 2013 • This working group has met 9 times in 2021. In addition, regular subgroup meetings have taken place to advance elements of the work. The working group engaged in extensive consultation with a broad range of stakeholders • Following consideration of the report from the Independent Working Group the Minister brought a Memorandum to Government on an enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme on the 30 November 2021. It included an unprecedented suite of improvements to the current scheme • Government approved the enhanced scheme which it is estimated will cost approximately €2.2 billion • 48 Stage 2 applications were approved by Donegal and Mayo • The Pyrite Remediation Scheme continues to address the issue of significant pyritic damage in private dwellings • €15 million was spent in 2021, which facilitated the remediation of 201 additional dwellings • 2,292 dwellings have been remediated since the scheme was first introduced in 2014 • The Department is committed to establishing an independent building standards regulator to strengthen the oversight role of the State with the aim of further reducing the risk of building failures and enhancing public confidence in construction-related activity • In 2021, the Department arranged for a comprehensive desktop study to be undertaken by the Housing Agency. • This will document the current building control system and construction product enforcement system in Ireland and other

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
				<p>countries as well as an overview of other relevant regulators and inspectorates in Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on the output of this study, further consideration, with external expert input and/or oversight, will be undertaken to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the operation of the building control system in Ireland and other countries and to make recommendations on how it should be enhanced to ensure that it is consistent, agile and able to meet the demands and expectations of it. This phase of the work will also set out and assess options for the potential scope, role and functions of an independent Building Standards Regulator • Separately, and in addition, the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2021, S.I. 229 of 2021 were signed. These Regulations amend the Building Control Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 496 of 1997) (the “Principal Regulations”) to enable certain applications to be filed electronically on the Building Control Management System
7. Support local authorities with a range of schemes and initiatives aimed at improving the quality, safety, efficiency and general maintenance of quality housing stock	<p>7.1 Implement a planned maintenance approach to housing stock within local authorities</p> <p>7.2 Ensure that the current Department stock improvement funding models support the planned maintenance approach</p> <p>7.3 Introduce minimum BER standards for retrofitted homes within the local authority social</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of regeneration and projects • Introduction of improved stock management system for social housing • Development of a roadmap for retrofitted local authority social housing stock to achieve BER of B2/cost optimal performance by 2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of houses brought to required standard each year • Number of home grants provided • Number of homes completed under regeneration projects • Number of local authority homes completed under the National Retrofit Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transition to planned maintenance is on-going. The budgetary provision in 2021 was initially €13 million which was to be made available to support the Voids Programme and the implementation of an ICT system to support stock condition surveys for planned maintenance. It is envisaged the system will be in place in 2022 • In 2021 the Voids Programme supported the remediation of 2,425 units in total as it received an additional allocation of €31.2 million, which facilitated the return to active use of 1,475 units over initial projections of 950. These additional units were required as part of mitigation activity given the significant impact of COVID-19 construction sector closures on new build delivery • A key objective of the Programme for Government is the retrofit of 500,000 homes by 2030 to a B2/Cost Optimal BER

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>housing stock as part of the National Retrofit Programme</p> <p>7.4 Implementation of regeneration projects across the country to help address the causes of disadvantage</p>			<p>standard. It is expected that approximately 36,500 of those will be local authority owned homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2021 Energy Efficiency Programme was a newly revised programme that saw local authorities move from a 'shallow' to a 'deeper retrofit' programme, designed around the Programme for Government commitment with a significant increase in funding support In 2021 a total of 1,584 units were retrofitted at a total cost of €21.7 million under the national Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. Under the Midlands Retrofit Pilot Programme 146 units were retrofitted with funding of €3.5 million recouped to local authorities to support this work
8. Deliver Capital Programme for Traveller Accommodation	<p>8.1 Support local authorities to deliver increased levels of Traveller-specific accommodation</p> <p>8.2 Establish a programme of work to implement the recommendations of the Traveller Accommodation Expert Review report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Continued delivery of Traveller specific housing Implementation Continued of recommendations of the Expert Group Report on Traveller Accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Traveller specific homes delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69 Traveller specific homes provided Expenditure of Exchequer capital provision of €15.5 million in 2021 on Traveller Specific Accommodation by local authorities, which is the second consecutive year for which full capital spend was achieved Delivery and support of Traveller-specific accommodation was provided including group housing and halting sites. In addition further supports to assist with COVID-19 were provided A pilot Caravan Loan Scheme was rolled out in July 2021 for a 6 month period providing a preferential Caravan Loan Scheme for Travellers A Programme Board was established in 2021 to drive implementation of the recommendations from the Expert Group report – a work programme for 2021 was put in place covering 18 of the 32 recommendations. The programme board met for the first time in March 2021 and six times throughout 2021
9. To provide for development of effective policy	9.1 To fully transition from voluntary to statutory regulation for the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority (AHBRA) is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHBRA formally established in Q1 2021 Number of building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority (AHBRA) was established on 1 February 2021 and consists of a Board of 9 members supported by a CEO along with 21 staff

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
and statutory regulation	<p>Approved Housing Body (AHB) sector</p> <p>9.2 To develop a long-term strategy for the AHB sector</p> <p>9.3 Place Construction Industry Register Ireland (CIRI) on a statutory footing</p> <p>9.4 Manage Building Control Act 2007 and Construction Professionals Registers</p>	<p>fully operational and regulating all AHBs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A streamlined AHB sector which can support housing delivery, provide tenant support and management services • Statutory Register for Builders • Publication of Building Control (CIRI) Bill followed by enactment of the Act by Q1 2022 	<p>professionals on the Register</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legislation was commenced on a phased basis during 2021 to allow AHBRA to focus on building and implementing a new regulatory platform and communicating with the AHB sector • Standards for AHBs which were drafted by AHBRA in accordance with the legislation were submitted to the Minister for approval • Work continued throughout 2021 to review the register of AHBs. In total, 105 AHBs had their approved status rescinded and were removed from the AHB Register in advance of the register transferring to AHBRA on 1 January 2022 • The main objective of the Regulation of Providers of Building Works Bill 2022 is to develop and promote a culture of competence, good practice and compliance with the Building Regulations in the construction sector which will benefit consumers and the general public. The establishment of a robust, mandatory, statutory register is critical for the development of a culture of competence and compliance in the construction sector. The Department worked with the Attorney General's Office to draft the Regulation of Providers of Building Works Bill in 2021. It was approved by Government in December 2021 and published in January 2022. The Bill is currently going through the legislative process in the Oireachtas and is expected to be enacted in H1 2022
10. Continue the delivery of Local Authority Mortgage Lending and maintain oversight of local authority lending policy	10.1 Ensure that lending policies and operational guidance support the efficient delivery of local authority mortgages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased homeownership for creditworthy borrowers unable to get finance from commercial banks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of households gaining homeownership through Local Authority Mortgage Lending • Maintaining low levels of arrears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Local Authority Home Loan was established in 2021, replacing the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan • The income ceiling for single applicants was raised from €50,000 to €65,000 for house purchases in the Greater Dublin Area, Cork and Galway • A 'Fresh Start' principle was applied, allowing persons who previously owned a home but no longer do as a result of relationship breakup or bankruptcy, to be eligible for the loan

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
11.Support Affordable Home Ownership and Rental	<p>11.1 Develop a new national Affordable Purchase Shared Equity Scheme for housing on private lands</p> <p>11.2 Develop legislation to support affordable purchase schemes</p> <p>11.3 Lead the policy development to introduce Cost Rental as a new category of housing in Ireland</p> <p>11.4 Assess and define how this new sector will operate and expand, including providing legislation for this where required</p> <p>11.5 Work with local authorities, AHBs and the Land Development Agency (LDA) to progress designated Cost Rental pilot projects</p> <p>11.6 Develop new funding methods for developing Cost Rental housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation in place to allow the introduction and operation of the new Affordable Housing Scheme and the local authority led affordable dwelling purchase arrangements • Sustainable development of housing provided by the LDA, including climate resistant, low-carbon and affordable housing • State lands being offered for sale will automatically be offered first to the LDA • National Affordable Purchase Shared Equity Scheme (private developments) in place and progress the local authority led affordable purchase scheme (public lands) • Policy, funding and legislative basis in place to facilitate development of Cost Rental sector in Ireland • Project tenders approved and construction works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of homes available for affordable purchase • Number of homes available for Cost Rental • Drawdown of Cost Rental Equity Loan Funding • Drawdown of Affordable Purchase Shared Equity Scheme Funding • Level of drawdown in the Serviced Sites Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first ever standalone Act for the provision of affordable housing was delivered via the Affordable Housing Act 2021, enacted on 21 July 2021 and providing for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivery of affordable purchase homes on local authority lands; • the introduction of a new form of tenure in Cost Rental; • a First Home shared equity scheme and; • expanding Part V planning requirements to increase the 10% contribution requirement to 20% and to apply it to cost rental as well as social and affordable housing. • The First Home Scheme to support purchases of new homes on private lands was announced on 2 September 2021 • A Special Purpose Vehicle to implement the scheme, the First Home Ireland Designated Activity Company, was incorporated in December 2021 • Part 2 of the Affordable Housing Act 2021, laid the foundation for the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme, under which local authorities will make new homes available for sale to eligible purchasers • Three separate Regulations, S.I.s 425/2021, 755/2021 and 756/2021 were signed between August and December 2021 establishing operational requirements for Cost Rental tenancies • The Cost Rental Equity Loan (CREL) Scheme was introduced to support AHBs to deliver cost rental homes, covering up to 30% of the capital costs in each development. The Housing Finance Agency (HFA) may also provide funding support for the remaining 70% of capital costs • The first 25 Cost Rental homes in the history of the State were tenanted at Taylor Hill, Balbriggan, in August 2021 and a further 40 units were delivered at Barnhall Meadows, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, in October 2021. These initial Cost Rental levels

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>11.7 Manage/Administer the Serviced Sites Fund Programme</p> <p>11.8 Manage/Administer the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund Programme</p>	<p>commenced and completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of legislation and the wider policy basis in place to facilitate a Cost Rental sector in Ireland 		<p>were approximately 40% below open market rents in both areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost Rental tenancies have also been progressed at Enniskerry Road, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown with support from the Serviced Site Fund. These homes are anticipated to be tenanted in early 2022 • The Affordable Housing Fund replaced the Serviced Site Fund, incorporating a number of improvements informed by feedback from local authorities. Some of these improvements include; expanding the scope of costs covered and increasing the maximum funding support up to €100,000, based on location and density • A total of 30 Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) projects were approved for grant funding in 2018¹ of which 10 have been completed and 9 were under construction up to the end of 2021 • Based on data provided by local authorities, in 2021 a total of 974 units were completed, of which 249 were cost-reduced units • The overall total housing delivery under the LIHAF scheme at end 2021 is 3,638 units, which includes 1,505 cost reduced units

¹ Three were subsequently cancelled.

Strategic Goal B: To provide a framework for the sustainable management of water resources from source to sea

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
1. Protect, enhance and restore water quality and water resource	<p>1.1 Ensuring full transposition and implementation of all water related EU Directives and Regulations and resolve and close water sector EU infringement cases on water infrastructure, compliance and transposition</p> <p>1.2 Implementation of actions under the 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and launch a new revised and strengthened RBMP in 2022</p> <p>1.3 Implement the LIFE-IP Waters of Life programme to protect and restore high ecological status waterbodies at a river basin-scale demonstration project across a range of landscapes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved compliance in drinking water, urban waste water and full compliance with the Water Framework Directive Water quality is protected from further deterioration and restored to at least good status as appropriate Reduced impact from excess loss of nutrients to water Improved awareness, knowledge, involvement and engagement of farmers, the agri-food industry and local communities in water quality protection and restoration through better water quality outcomes Robust framework for the control of water abstractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission Infringement File Status EPA Water Quality Reports - reporting of performance indicators on water quality (water quality indicators report; bathing water report) Enactment of the Water Environment (Abstractions) Bill New RBMP published in 2022 Projects at River Basin scale demonstrating viable measures to protect and restore water quality that can be used to design national scale policy interventions ASSAP Operational Reports - operational indicators and outcomes linked to successful water quality measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EPA Report Drinking Water Quality in Public Supplies 2020 (2021) finds that compliance with the microbiological and chemical standards for drinking water remains high at greater than 99.5%, which means the water in our public water supplies is safe to drink The EPA's report for Drinking Water Quality in Private Group Schemes and Small Private Supplies in 2020, shows that 95% of Private Group Water Schemes (schemes supplying their own water) are in compliance with E.coli standards, and 93% compliant with Trihalomethanes Standards. While Monitored Small Private Supplies (businesses supplying their own water), are 96% compliant with E.coli standards, and 99% compliant with Trihalomethanes Standards The EPA's Drinking Water Remedial Action List for Q4 2021 (published 2022) outlines 52 water supplies with outstanding actions required by the Water Supplier for their removal from the list. This is down from 77 water supplies in 2017 On-going transposition of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) required amendments to 4 S.I.'s. Progress was made in 2021 with all four S.I.'s and the majority of the amending regulations have been completed with the balance at final stages. The S.I.'s are expected to be completed in 2022 New S.I. 659/2021 European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) (Amendment) regulations 2021 concluded amending S.I. 272/2009 The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage published its report on the Water Environment (Abstractions and Certain Impoundments) Bill in January 2021.

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>1.4 Expand programmes, including the Agriculture Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) to protect and deliver improvements in water quality</p> <p>1.5 Support the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) and expand the Community Water Development Fund</p> <p>1.6 Review the effects of the nitrates derogation on water quality, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which will inform future policy in this area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBMP launched with a comprehensive set of measures to protect, enhance and restore the status of surface waters and ground waters • Timely delivery of River Basin demonstration project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAWPRO Operational Reports -operational indicators and outcomes linked to successful water quality measures 	<p>Drafting of the Bill is nearly complete with publication and enactment expected in 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive case continued with 18 of the 28 areas cited in the judgment resolved to date • The Department is continuing to engage directly with Irish Water, the EPA and each local authority responsible to ensure sustained progress on the projects required to address the Reasoned Opinion relating to compliance with the Drinking Water Directive due to the levels of Trihalomethanes (THMs) in 31 public water supplies and in 13 private group water schemes. A number of Irish Water schemes (10) and private group water scheme projects (7) remain to be resolved • The second-cycle River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), covering the period 2018-2021, contained some 86 individual measures, with every one either completed or underway during 2021. These measures include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development of guidelines for incorporating the Water Framework Directive into the planning system, a draft copy of which was approved by the project steering group to be published for public consultation; • addressing fish passage at Ardnacrusha and Parteen to improve the movement of fish in the lower Shannon catchment, which saw a roadmap of actions approved by the steering group for approval by the Minister. The learning from this project will be used to inform other restoration works across the country • 160 households benefitted from upgrades to their septic tanks • Completion of the review of provision of waste water collection and treatment requirements for villages and similar settlements that do not have access to public waste water infrastructure

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenced review of the governance, supervision and wider investment needs relating to the Rural Water Sector. Work due to be completed in 2022 Commenced review of the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021
2. Structure water and waste water services around Ireland's needs, the centrality of customers, the prioritisation of public health and environmental protection	<p>2.1 Review and work to improve the inspection regime for the 500,000 domestic waste water systems and incentivise upgrading works</p> <p>2.2 Ensure that Irish Water progresses works to reduce the number of schemes on the EPA's Remedial Action List</p> <p>2.3 Implement the National Lead (Pb) Strategy, as appropriate</p> <p>2.4 Ensure that Irish Water develops Drinking Water Safety Plans to protect abstraction sources and reduce public health risks</p> <p>2.5 Commission a range of research projects to explore innovative ways of improving our water infrastructure and reducing consumption</p> <p>2.6 Review the electricity requirements of water and wastewater treatment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved awareness, knowledge and compliance of householders' operation and maintenance of domestic waste water systems Drinking water quality is protected, and average lead exposure risk is reduced from public-side; risk profile is known and the infringement case related to drinking water is resolved Actions in National Lead (Pb) Strategy are implemented with enhanced awareness of stakeholders' responsibilities Increase the uptake of the lead remediation grant Research knowledge on reducing water demand and consumption Research knowledge on reducing the carbon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results in EPA Domestic Waste Water Systems Inspection Reports reporting of compliance indicators Results in EPA Drinking Water Quality Reports reporting of performance indicators on drinking water quality Number of actions in National Lead Strategy fully implemented or ongoing Increased uptake of the lead remediation grant Publication of Research project report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Water provided the Department with quarterly updates containing key information on how it supports housing (by providing water services to new homes), key public services and businesses. Housing developments are connected to water services and wastewater infrastructure to address legacy issues. Completed review of current Lead Remediation Grant Scheme, including consultation with relevant stakeholders Commenced review of actions in National strategy to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water At the end of 2021, there were 52 schemes on the EPA's Remediation Action List. This is an increase of 6 on 2020, however this represents the lowest ever population affected. A significant milestone was the completion of a €150m major upgrade to the Vartry Water Supply Scheme, which resulted in the removal of 7 schemes, and a population of 127,000 from the EPA's RAL. In addition to Irish Water's programme of drinking water safety planning that is currently underway, a Source Protection sub group under the Department's new Drinking Water Expert Group was set up to focus on how best to implement the requirement in the new Drinking Water Directive for Drinking Water Safety Plans. The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) Water Services Innovation Fund supports Irish Water to invest in a range of research and innovation projects with a view to

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	plants and carry out a series of pilot projects to incorporate onsite renewable energy generation	footprint at pilot plants that will inform wider scale adoption at national scale		<p>addressing issues across the Irish water network including water infrastructure and consumption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Water's sustainable energy strategy takes a business wide approach including concept design, new projects and retrofits. • The Department is funding a National Federation of Group Water Schemes Pilot Project to enable rural communities to combat climate change and enhance biodiversity through community-owned water supplies, including energy audits and practical adaptation measures.
3. Implement water sector reform	<p>3.1 Support the development of Irish Water as enduring world-class publicly-owned, stand-alone, regulated single utility for the nationwide delivery of public water services</p> <p>3.2 Ensure funding of Irish Water under agreed funding framework to make the necessary investment in drinking water and waste water infrastructure to ensure the continued underpinning of the investment planned under Project Ireland 2040</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stable operational framework for the future delivery of water services that meets the needs and expectations of citizens and is in keeping with the principles of social, economic and environmental sustainability • Legislation enacted establishing Irish Water in public ownership as a national, stand-alone regulated utility, and separated from the Ervia Group • Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and Strategic Funding Plan in support of National Development Plan Objectives are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication in 2021 of a policy paper setting out the Government's views and expectations on water sector transformation • Legislation enacted by end 2021 to amend the Water Services Acts 2007-2017 to reflect the enduring role of Irish Water separated from the Ervia Group • Compliance with EU Drinking Water and Urban Waste Water standards • Number of Waste Water Treatment Plants and Drinking Water Plants (new and upgraded) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Sector Transformation Policy Paper was published in February 2021, with the objective of ensuring that Ireland has modern and effective systems in place for the delivery of water and wastewater services. • In April 2021, the Government approved the priority drafting of a Bill to separate Irish Water from the Ervia Group, and the General Scheme of that Bill underwent pre-legislative scrutiny by the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage in September 2021. It is expected that the Bill will be published during 2022. • On asset transfer, three SIs were prepared in 2021 to enable the transfer of 280 water services asset properties from local authorities to Irish Water. Since 2014, some 3,216 asset properties have transferred to Irish Water. The focus has been on the transfer of larger assets, resulting in assets equivalent to 76% of water supply capacity and 84% of wastewater treatment capacity being transferred to Irish Water by end 2021.

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
		adequately funded; and reflect the regulatory decisions of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities	•Kilometres of Water and Waste Water Network (new and rehabilitated)	<p>In terms of other measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Compliance with Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD): 93%² • In 2021, 16 schemes were removed from the EPA Remedial Action List • Total number of waste water treatment plants (new and upgraded): 8 delivered by end 2021 • Total number of Water Treatment Plants (new and upgraded): 12 delivered by end 2021 • Kilometres of Water Network (new and rehabilitated): 241 delivered by end 2021 • Gross leakage savings - 222 mega litres of water per day were saved through the dedicated leakage reduction plan in 2021. • The final phase of the Government Decision to replace Irish Water's commercial loan facilities with State lending was completed in 2021. Irish Water's short-term working capital funding requirements will now be met through a State working capital facility, allowing the cancellation of Irish Water's remaining commercial borrowing facilities. • In overall terms, some €1.276 billion was required to meet the cost of domestic water services in 2021: of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €599 million related to capital investment; and • €677 million related to current expenditure.
4. Reform of the Rural Water Sector	4.1 Support the Rural Water Working Group in considering governance, supervision, and operation of rural water infrastructure	• Future needs of the Rural Water Sector identified	• Number of private wells (new and upgraded) grant-aided	• €150 million for capital investment in the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme has been provided for the period 2022-2025.

² Provisional figure for 2021.

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>4.2 Preparation of a new Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme on a national basis with administrative procedures and guidance for the period 2022-2024</p> <p>4.3 Implement the institutional reforms identified under Strand 2 of the Rural Water Working Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumers in rural areas have access to equitable services • Improved drinking water quality in group water schemes, (where agreed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of septic tanks (upgraded) grant-aided • Reports produced in a timely manner to address specific needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021, €26.4m was provided in Operational Supports to Group Water Schemes benefiting just over 93,500 households. • Over €6.6m provided for private wells benefiting just over 2,900 households. • 160 households benefitted from upgrades to their septic tanks. • Completion of review of provision of waste water collection and treatment requirements for villages and similar settlements that do not have access to public waste water infrastructure. • Commencement of review the governance, supervision and wider investment needs relating to the Rural Water Sector. Work due to be completed in 2022. • Commenced review of the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021.
5. Support the progressive resolution, of legacy stand-alone Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure in housing estates	5.1 Preparation of a new Multi-Annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme on a national basis with administrative procedures and guidance for the period 2022-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The progressible taking in charge of housing estates with Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of estates with Developer Provided Infrastructure resolved, thus enabling these estates to be taken in charge by the local authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works progressed on the 26 estates allocated funding of €3.35 million in September 2020 under the initial tranche of the multi-annual programme and 1 estate was completed
6. Ensure that Ireland has a clean, healthy, diverse and sustainably used maritime area while implementing relevant parts of UN Sustainable	6.1 Implement the second cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) to 2022 and actively participate in the OSPAR Commission in the development and delivery of a strategy from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine waters maintain or achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) across all descriptors • National marine spatial plan includes MSFD environmental targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of achievement of GES in 2023 and state of the environment assessed in the OSPAR Quality Status Report in 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Environmental Targets form part of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) and through its implementation will ensure that human activity is at sustainable levels and that the ecosystem is protected • Ireland's MSFD Marine Strategy Part 2 - review of monitoring programmes, comprising 20 programmes and 36 surveys or campaigns, was delivered in December

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
Development Goal (SDG) number (14)	<p>2021-2030 and a quality status assessment in 2023</p> <p>6.2 Publish expert advisory group report on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and hold extensive public consultation on the process</p> <p>6.3 Develop comprehensive legislation for the identification, designation, and management of MPAs</p> <p>6.4 Develop a coordinated national approach to United Nations biodiversity objectives and targets on marine protection</p>	<p>and recommendations on MPAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An expanded, coherent and representative network of MPAs developed in close consultation with all stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New MPA legislation enacted by 2023 • Degree of achievement of sub-targets of UN SDG number (14) • Agree the UN biodiversity targets 2021 and complete negotiations on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions implementing treaty in 2021 	<p>2021, ensuring compliance with the timelines of the Directive and work is ongoing to report the Programme of Measures in 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published expert advisory group report on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in January 2021 and held extensive public consultation on the process, including through online and in-person stakeholder fora and via an extensive communications campaign • Commenced the development of comprehensive legislation for the identification, designation, and management of MPAs • National involvement (including Chairing) at the OSPAR Commission and Ministerial meeting in Sept-Oct, contributing to the delivery by OSPAR of several major initiatives for the protection of the North-East Atlantic Ocean environment to 2030 and beyond
7.Ensure transboundary co-operation on marine environment issues	<p>7.1 Develop appropriate coordination co-operation mechanisms within the existing framework of agreements and forge alliances with other Member States</p> <p>7.2 Ensure that the revisions to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive due in 2023 address transboundary co-operation including with third countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative engagement with UK administrations to ensure that shared marine waters achieve GES and the equivalent under UK legislation and the OSPAR Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of achievement of GES in 2023 and state of the environment as assessed in the OSPAR Quality Status Report in 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of Ireland's delegation to the OSPAR Commission in order to further facilitate transboundary cooperation and coordination with other EU Member States and third countries for the protection of the marine environment • Continued engagement and involvement in cross-border marine projects and research council at Advisory Group and Steering Group levels, in order to ensure effective cooperation, coordination and alignment on the island of Ireland and across the Irish Sea as appropriate

Strategic Goal C: To support and enable democratic, responsive and effective local government, effective electoral management and high quality fire services and emergency management

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements
1. Develop policy and systems to ensure effective electoral management and reform	<p>1.1 Develop an Electoral Reform Bill</p> <p>1.2 Provide the necessary support for the smooth running of elections and referendums</p> <p>1.3 Complete the modernisation process for voter registration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative provisions made for: the establishment of an Electoral Commission; the modernisation of the electoral register; the regulation of online political advertising during election periods Necessary supports in place to ensure electoral events completed Simplified processes and procedures for electoral registration in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electoral Commission in place by end 2021 Modernised electoral registration process in place by end 2023 Regulation of online political advertising arrangements during election periods in place by end 2021 Numbers of electoral events held in accordance with legislation Simplified registration form in place by end 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Scheme of the Electoral Reform Bill was published and submitted to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 8 January 2021 The General Scheme was forwarded to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel on 26 January 2021 and drafting took place throughout 2021 on a significant body of legislation In addition to the electoral reform proposals set out in the General Scheme, in June 2021, the Government approved the extension of voting facilities for persons with mental health difficulties in line with the facilities that are currently in place for persons with physical illnesses or disabilities. These provisions were incorporated into the drafting of the Electoral Reform Bill The Dublin Bay South bye-election was held on 8 July 2021. Extensive arrangements were put in place by the returning officer to ensure that the bye-election was held in accordance with COVID-19 public health advice The Electoral Reform Bill also underpins the commitment to the modernisation of voter registration. Preparations for implementation of the provisions of the Bill continued in 2021 and included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the introduction of rolling (continuously updated) registration; simplification of forms and the overall registration process; provision of an online option; and the use of Personal Public Service Numbers (PPSNs) in the registration process

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working in consultation with the local government sector, other government departments, and the Data Protection Commission, significant progress was made, including work on upgrading existing systems to ensure that they can support the new processes once the legislation is commenced To facilitate improved data sharing provided for in the Bill and enabling a single high level of security and data protection, a governance structure drawn from relevant bodies at national and local government level was established to consider the options for a national electoral registration system
2.To support and advance Government policy to enhance and develop local government	<p>2.1 Examine the scope for devolving more powers to local authorities through the legislative process to strengthen and enhance local democracy</p> <p>2.2 Promote Municipal District-led leadership and engagement on a 'Town Centres First' approach to the regeneration of towns and villages</p> <p>2.3 Improve co-operation and municipal governance for urban areas that extend beyond county boundaries by establishing a formal structure whereby the relevant local authorities will work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review completed of the implementation of Putting People First - Action Programme for Effective Local Government Analysis completed of Institute of Public Administration review of municipal districts Legislation in place to ensure consistent planning and development of urban areas lying within the administrative area of more than one local authority Each local authority will identify and develop plans for one "Decarbonising Zone" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy paper prepared on potential measures to boost local government leadership and accountability on conclusion of the Putting People First - Action Programme for Effective Local Government Provide best practice recommendations for the operation of Municipal Districts to the local government sector by end 2021 to assist in the sustainable growth and regeneration of communities and town centres Legislation passed to allow for statutory cross-boundary co- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of the General Scheme of a Bill providing for a directly elected mayor of Limerick and providing for mayoral plebiscites in local authorities commenced in Q3; pre-legislative scrutiny was completed The report of the Joint Committee on Housing Local Government and Heritage issued in November 2021 The Department engaged with other government departments on devolution of new functions and funding to Limerick Surveys of local authority members and officials complete Workshops held with relevant stakeholders Policy paper in development Best practice guidelines for municipal districts under development The work relating to the analysis completed by the Institute of Public Administration's review of municipal districts is almost complete. A suite of best practice recommendations has been identified and it is intended to issue a circular outlining these recommendations shortly It is intended that implementing these practices, where appropriate, will contribute to greater efficiency and effectiveness in the overall operation of municipal districts, boost local leadership and also help to strengthen and grow our communities in a sustainable manner

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements
	<p>together to plan for their development in a way that best serves the interests of the residents and businesses located within them</p> <p>2.4 Engage with local authorities to deliver on Action 165 of the 2019 Climate Action Plan to extend flagship low-carbon projects to other towns and villages</p> <p>2.5 Introduce legislation to establish the office of directly elected mayor and to facilitate mayoral elections in Limerick</p> <p>2.6 Ensure local government has an appropriate funding model by considering further streamlining of the commercial rates system and supporting changes to Local Property Tax (LPT), specifically a move to 100% local retention of LPT, as well as ensuring transparency for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation enacted in 2021 providing for mayoral elections in Limerick • The first directly elected mayor with executive functions in place in Limerick to 2029, thereafter with a 5 year term • Legislative provisions to allow for plebiscites on directly elected mayors in other local authorities in 2024 in place • A robust, transparent and balanced financial system operating at local level for the benefit of citizens and councils 	<p>operation in the form of Urban Area Committees by end 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each local authority to include an identified decarbonising zone in its county-specific climate action plan • A mayoral election held in Limerick in accordance with legislation enacted • A mayor of Limerick with significant new, additional functions • New LPT allocation model developed and implemented, with all LPT spent in the area it is collected • Legislation to modernise the commercial rates system brought forward and systems to support these changes developed and rolled out in local authorities • 31 financially sustainable local authorities requiring minimal additional financial support 	

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements
	homeowners and ratepayers on local authority expenditure			

Strategic Goal D: To ensure that planning and building in our regions, communities and maritime area contributes to deliver sustainable and balanced development

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
1. Delivery and review of the National Planning Framework (NPF) to achieve a more sustainable pattern and form of spatial development that is aligned with public investment to support more balanced regional development	<p>1.1 The development, monitoring and review of national planning policy, legislation and guidance, including review of the NPF by 2024</p> <p>1.2 Working with stakeholders to operationalise the NPF</p> <p>1.3 Implement and monitor the strategic alignment of spatial planning and investment</p> <p>1.4 Engage with and provide, as appropriate, ongoing technical support to local authorities to assist in the development and management of projects approved under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater focus on strategic planning and sustainable development throughout Ireland to accommodate projected future population and economic growth with investment better aligned with spatial planning policy • Operational planning system which meets the ongoing requirements at national, regional and local levels • Enable the development of improved planning practice across all relevant stakeholders including promotion of best practice and the highest professional standards in the operation of the Irish planning system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of NPF targets and objectives • The publication and implementation of new and updated legislation and guidance that are reflected in local planning policy on a rolling annual basis • Consistency across national policies in terms of alignment with the NPF, including NDP review (2021) to be monitored annually as part of the Project Ireland 2040 process • Consistent regional and local spatial planning policies with public investment aligned with targeted population and housing growth, to be assessed through the local development plan process and resultant growth outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been two Calls for proposals under the URDF with a total of almost €312 million allocated in respect of the 87 projects approved under Call 1, while in March 2021 further URDF funding support of €1.3 billion was provisionally allocated in respect of a countrywide programme of 45 proposals approved under Call 2 • The 45 proposals approved under Call 2, builds on the existing pipeline of URDF supported projects, and ultimately will contribute significantly to the transformative regeneration and development of our large towns and cities, and to the achievement of NPF and Project Ireland 2040 objectives • The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on behalf of the Department successfully launched the pilot of the ePlanning Portal in Q4 2021 in Tipperary and Galway County Councils. The pilot will be completed in Q1 2022 • In April 2021, An Bord Pleanála launched its new upgraded website, which is more user-friendly, informative and will further help to improve communications and interaction between the Board and the public. Since December 2021 the Board can now accept online observations with fee payment for both Strategic Infrastructure Development Cases and Normal Planning Appeal cases • In 2021 the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage developed the Town Centre First policy • In December 2021, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced €2.6 million in funding to deliver Town Centre First Plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty-six towns were selected.

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>1.5 Provide advice, technical support, expertise and guidance on a broad range of planning-related matters to all stakeholders</p> <p>1.6 Maintain a review of the planning system, focusing particularly on forecasting, access to planning services and planning for sustainable development</p> <p>1.7 Identify and facilitate partnership between all stakeholders to bring vacant homes back into use</p> <p>1.8 The development of proposals for urban land activation, including land value capture</p> <p>1.9 Develop and roll-out of Housing Supply Targets and Housing Need and Demand Assessment for local authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the regeneration and rejuvenation of cities and large towns enabling more residential and mixed-use development to be delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress towards NPF targets, including more than 50% of growth to take place outside Dublin and the Eastern Region and an average of 40% of housing nationally to be on greenfield or infill sites • Progress towards delivery of a programme of high quality transformational URDF projects that are qualitatively assessed to have positive impact on urban areas throughout the country • Achievement of targets set for each local authority on the number of vacant homes that can be brought back into use • Reversing vacancy and dereliction and increasing development activity, population, jobs and footfall in Ireland's towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the initiative, each local authority will be provided with €100,000 to support the development of its own unique Town Centre First (TCF) Plan • Town Centre First is a commitment of the Programme for Government and is built on the firm foundation of NSO 1 'Compact Growth' of Project Ireland 2040 and the objectives of the National Planning Framework which seeks to build strong towns that can provide services and opportunities to local residents and businesses alike • Housing for All strongly supports the Town Centre First approach and in particular the greater re-use and refurbishment of existing buildings as a policy objective, with more infill and brownfield sites activated to regenerate the heart of our towns and bring people and activity back • The Town Centre First policy will mainly be implemented by a National Town Centre First Office located in the Local Government Management Agency with funding of €500,000 per year sourced from the Housing for All Implementation Fund. The National TCF Office will be established in 2022

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>1.10 Leading, in conjunction with colleagues in Department of Rural and Community Development, on the development and implementation of the 'Town Centres First' policy</p> <p>1.11 Establish City Delivery Boards to co-ordinate and drive development in each of the five cities, to activate strategic areas and achieve effective density and consolidation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of national rural housing policy through updated ministerial guidance that can be implemented consistently at a local level to support rural housing need in accordance with EU objectives • Successful rollout of online planning portals to the 31 local authorities and the deployment of a new online portal by An Bord Pleanála 	
2. Develop and implement a Marine Planning System and Framework. Support the long-term and sustainable development of the maritime area ensuring protection of marine biodiversity, supporting coastal communities and	<p>2.1 Oversee finalisation and implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework</p> <p>2.2 Lead the delivery of the Maritime Area (Planning) Act 2021 – a key enabler of Ireland's decarbonisation programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional marine spatial plans in place for all of Ireland's maritime area. A modern, robust maritime planning system is established • Increased community awareness of marine planning and local stakeholder engagement on sub-national marine plans to enable community-led local marine plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Marine Planning Framework finalised and sub-national marine spatial plans developed by 2022 • Maritime Area (Planning) Bill 2021 is enacted and implemented • Coastal Partnerships established and governance system in place by 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) was launched by the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, on 1 July 2021, and is Ireland's first comprehensive marine spatial planning framework. The NMPF brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity • The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 was signed into law by the President on 23 December 2021. The Act will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regulate the maritime area through a commitment to coherent, interrelated planning covering forward planning, development management and enforcement;

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
encouraging investment	<p>2.3 Development of Coastal Partnerships, where regional and local marine planning is devolved to local communities, incorporating best practice from other jurisdictions as well as development of the existing skills and strengths of the local community</p> <p>2.4 Ensure there is alignment between the National Marine Planning Framework and the Marine Development Plan, Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National marine spatial and investment plans aligned and working together to develop the coastal and maritime area 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish a new marine planning system underpinned by a statutory Marine Planning Policy Statement and guided by the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPPF); help facilitate a reduction in the reliance on carbon fuels and be a critical enabler for delivering on Ireland's target to increase offshore wind capacity to 5 GW by 2030 establish a new licensing and development management regime, to be administered by a new Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA), in conjunction with An Bord Pleanála and the coastal local authorities
3. Enable the Land Development Agency (LDA) , An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) to deliver on their mandates	<p>3.1 Enact the LDA Bill and resource financing through Ireland Strategic Investment Fund</p> <p>3.2 Oversee the LDA in meeting all its objectives as provided for under the Programme for Government 2020 - Our Shared Future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delivery of sustainable communities including climate resistant, low carbon housing by the LDA LDA empowered to provide homes for affordable purchase, cost rental and social housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDA to be established as a commercial state body by mid-2021 Ongoing assembly of a land bank to ensure a supply of development land to support delivery of affordable housing Register of Public Land to be completed and available on LDA website by end 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Land Development Agency Act 2021, was signed into law on 21 July 2021 The Land Development Agency Act 2021 (Commencement) Order 2021, S.I. No. 712/2021, which provided for the establishment of a new LDA Designated Activity Company (DAC) and the initial capitalisation of the LDA DAC by the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) from the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF), came into effect on 15 December 2021

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	3.3 Ensure that ABP and the OPR have the powers, capacity, guidance and resources to carry out their statutory functions efficiently and effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Register of Relevant Public Lands by the LDA • LDA work with local authorities to develop strategic sites • The 3 planning agencies (OPR, ABP and LDA) will support Ireland's plan led planning process founded upon transparency, objectivity, evidence gathering and proper public engagement in policy development and decision making • Proper oversight by the OPR over the systems and procedures used by planning authorities and ensuring public confidence in the delivery of planning outcomes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LDA DAC was incorporated by the Company Registration Office (CRO) on 20 December 2021 and following a direction issued by the Minister for Finance and the establishment of a bank account by the LDA DAC, the initial €100 million of the LDA's €1.25 billion ISIF (Ireland Strategic Investment Fund) capital allocation to the LDA DAC has now been transferred from ISIF by the NTMA

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
4. Operation of the foreshore consenting regime in respect of developments and activities on the foreshore	<p>4.1 Process applications for consent under the Foreshore Act</p> <p>4.2 Estate management of the foreshore property portfolio</p> <p>4.3 Manage foreshore litigation involving the Minister as plaintiff or defendant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of managed and compliant foreshore application system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of foreshore consent applications brought to a conclusion • Number of foreshore litigation cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce plans were approved for both An Bord Pleanála and the Office of the Planning Regulator, providing for an additional 24 and 5 posts respectively across a range of technical and administrative grades, and including the creation of a new Marine and Climate Unit within An Bord Pleanála to implement the role assigned to the Board under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 • 61 new statutory applications for consent were received in 2021 relating to a range of projects and activities on the foreshore including applications for various one day events and coastal protections works, Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) site investigations, Strategic Infrastructure Projects, interconnectivity sub-sea and interconnector electricity cables, local authority developments, port developments and dredging • A total of 25 applications (including applications received in previous years) were concluded in 2021 • Three judicial review cases were taken against the Minister in 2021 in relation to Foreshore decisions and processes with one case struck out and the other two ongoing in the High Court
5. Lead the development, implementation and guidance for EU Directives, UN obligations and planning legislation relevant to the planning system	<p>5.1 Ensure legislation and guidance is updated, manage the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Portal and transboundary EIA consultations</p> <p>5.2 Input into the establishment of a new Environmental and Planning Law Court</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning system is compliant with the State's EU and international obligations and public participation rights are protected in domestic and transboundary EIA procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of EIA portal notifications uploaded • Transboundary EIA consultations managed • Legislation and guidance documents progressed • Number of domestic and CJEU environmental planning litigation cases managed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 280 EIA portal notifications uploaded • 7 Transboundary EIA consultations managed • 36 new environmental planning litigation cases managed

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>5.3 Having an appropriate legislative and policy framework for planning in Ireland which is effective, efficient, streamlined and transparent</p> <p>5.4 Coordinate and manage environmental planning litigation on behalf of the Department in domestic courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)</p>			
6. Carry out a comprehensive review and consolidation of Planning and Development Act ³	<p>6.1 Actively participate in the review of planning legislation being led by the Attorney General and engage closely with the working group he has appointed.</p> <p>6.2 Establish Planning Advisory Forum to enable stakeholder engagement on the review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Planning and Development Act enacted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review to be completed and revised legislation in place by end 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planning Legislation Review which is being led by the Attorney General commenced in quarter 3 of 2021 to achieve this objective In Quarter 4 of 2021 the Planning Advisory Forum was established as part of the Planning Legislation Review. The Forum includes representatives from the public sector, business, environmental, social and knowledge based sectors

³ New objective

Strategic Goal E: In the context of climate change and the impact of weather on Ireland, serve society through the production and communication of reliable weather and climate information to protect life and property and to further enhance Met Éireann's role as the authoritative voice on meteorology and climatology in Ireland

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
1. Expand and develop the delivery of authoritative impact-based weather and climate services	<p>1.1 Develop Met Éireann's impact-based weather and warning services and Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) systems which underpin them</p> <p>1.2 Run climate models for Ireland and support Irish society in preparing for future weather and climate through translating climate information into specific sectorial services</p> <p>1.3 Exploit a wide range of communications pathways, to bring weather and climate impact-based services information to all of Irish society and develop societal understanding of weather, hydrological and climate risks through education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality impact-based weather and warning services • Standardised national climate projections for Ireland and associated climate services meeting the Irish adaptation sector's climate information requirements • A wide reach and understanding of Met Éireann's weather, flooding and climate services across Irish society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) system forecast capability • Expanded impact-based forecast services • Enhanced digital delivery of developed pollen/hay fever information services • Completion of high resolution regional climate simulations • Standardised climate projections provided • Value added climate services and associated policy guidance available • Number of climate science training events provided • Met Éireann's website and app is expanded and upgraded • Number of weather services and warnings delivered via multimedia platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met Éireann has drafted and presented its impact-based forecasting strategy to key stakeholders including local authorities, NDFEM and the ESB • Ensemble Prediction System products are published on met.ie. This is a key element of expanding impact-based forecasting services • Specific forecaster products have been developed in order to facilitate more accurate impact-based warnings • The pollen forecast is available on the Met Éireann app and website. Forecast season was extended and now runs from March to October each year • New website products launched in 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monthly weather forecast; • new daily surface analysis chart and air mass chart; • new Fire Weather Index charts; and • the Atlantic chart forecast maps extended from 7 to 10 days • New social media graphics for weather warnings and storm names were procured and used widely in 2021 • Increased weekly posts on Met Éireann's Instagram page • Weekly Irish language weather forecast tweet • Daily weather forecast podcast launched in August 2021 - available on all podcast platforms • Social media content standardised • Twitter follower count grew by 40k during 2021 (265k-305k) • Facebook followers grew by 10k (85k -95k) • Virtual education and outreach events offered through various video conferencing facilities

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement with information provided via Met Éireann's media platforms • Outreach activities expanded on-line • Delivery of new graphics production system to support weather and climate information services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional satellite radiances data assimilated into Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) system • Harmonie model cycle 43 (a NWP model) was operationalised following pre-operational tests • Climate normals for the period 1990-2010 were developed • ERA4CS climate service projects completed. These projects developed climate attribution tools, climate services for the insurance sector and climate indicators • Developed and delivered climate science training to local authorities
2. Establish a new national flood forecasting system	<p>2.1 Establish a Flood Forecast Centre (FFC) in conjunction with the Office of Public Works (OPW) as Stage 1 of a National Flood Forecast Warning Service (NFFWS)</p> <p>2.2 Move the FFC to an operational footing</p> <p>2.3 Produce plan for Stage 2 of the NFFWS in conjunction with OPW</p> <p>2.4 Development of the Irish Flood Integrated Communication System and develop a network within the local authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment fluvial (river) models for all of the Irish Hydrometric Areas and the introduction of a National Coastal Flood Model (NCFM) • Implementation Plan for Stage 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of 36 Catchment Hydrological models • The introduction of a NCFM into Met Éireann's operational suite of forecast models • Successful completion of an Irish version of the Flood Early Warning System • Production of an implementation plan for Stage 2 of the NFFWS • Introduce Ground Water Flooding, Pluvial Flooding and sub-catchment modelling into the FFC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 Catchment Hydrological models were created, the first time Ireland had such a suite of models • The Irish Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) was developed and all of the 36 catchment models have been integrated into the system • A trial of the Flood Forecast centre commenced in Q4 2021 and will run till the end of Q4 2022. In this trial the models will be reviewed in terms of accuracy and the FEWS system will be monitored

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
3. Maintain and develop expertise and skills and meteorological infrastructure required to deliver on Met Éireann's strategic goals	<p>3.1 Ensure Met Éireann's meteorological infrastructure and national climate monitoring network meet the evolving requirements of weather and climate services</p> <p>3.2 Further integrate third party observations to enable more efficient and effective weather and climate service delivery and continuously improve the quality of observations and forecast services in consultation with aviation users</p> <p>3.3 Commence project to modernise and enhance the rainfall radar network</p> <p>3.4 Retain designation as Ireland's meteorological service provider for International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Annex 3 services. Maintain Aviation Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliable weather and climate data for Ireland • Expansion of ICT, infrastructure, aeronautical services and remote sensing capabilities • Fully compliant aeronautical weather services certified under EU Regulations by the Competent Authority and designated by Department of Transport as MET Air Navigation Service Provider • Modernisation of radar network through the installation of a national network of 5 weather radars. Improved rainfall volume and intensity measurements • Enhanced predictive capability, knowledge transfer and expertise through co-operation with the international community and increased exchange of high quality satellite, observational and other data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a program of modernisation of the synoptic surface observing network instrumentation and infrastructure • Availability of synoptic weather observations at temporal resolution of 10 minutes • Installation and expansion of key infrastructure • Expansion of climate monitoring to include relevant Essential Climate Variables • Enhanced flood forecasting capabilities • Expansion of Weather Observations Website and the implementation of World Meteorological Organisation Integrated Global Observing System • Complete ICT migration and managed service project and modernisation of Meteorological Messaging System (MMS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New managed service partner on-boarded in November 2021 to refresh critical IT infrastructure in two data centres which will also provide a Geo resilient solution for key Met Éireann IT systems • Work continuing on the modernisation of the meteorological system • Near real-time data now available from automatic weather stations • Comprehensive Atmospheric Monitoring Programme (CAMP) physical collection servers (main and backup) installed • Data management working group established to develop data strategy in line with regulation and best practice • 6 new automatic climate monitoring (CAMP) stations installed in 2021 • Completion of Scoping Exercise for the Modernisation of the Irish Weather Radar Network • Signing of contract for replacement of Met Éireann's weather radar at Shannon with new dual-polarisation capabilities • A replacement High-Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC) appliance was procured and installed at the HQ laboratory for the analysis of precipitation samples • An automated sampler for the collection of dust and aerosol particles for later assessment and analysis, was procured and installed • New Present Weather Sensor installed for testing at Mullingar Test Site • An SO2 ultra-sensitive UV fluorescence sulphur dioxide analyser for environmental monitoring was procured and installed • An automated instrument for Absolute Magnetic readings was installed at Valentia Observatory

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>Division ISO 9001 accreditation</p> <p>3.5 Enhance support for high impact weather events through strengthened remote sensing capability</p> <p>3.6 Continue to participate in international meteorological Organisations</p> <p>3.7 Continuously improve the quality of observations and forecast services in consultation with aviation users</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of 5 new weather radars • Move to dual-polarisation radar technology • Quantitative Precipitation Estimation products to enhance flood forecasting capabilities • Upgrade of satellite reception systems • Modernisation of observation data storage and quality control systems • Development of ground-based remote sensing networks • Increased High Performance Computing capacity through the United Weather Service collaboration • Aviation Modernisation Automation Project (AMAP), METCOM MMS and Meteorological Self Briefing upgrade project milestones achieved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernisation of aviation weather observation infrastructure completed at 5 airports • Aviation Services Division recertified as compliant with CIR EU 2017/373 for the provision of regulated aeronautical meteorological services • Aviation Services retained accreditation to ISO 9001:2015 QMS standard • Collaborative cross border aviation forecast services implemented with United Kingdom Meteorological Office

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly aviation verification scores meet or exceed ICAO targets • AMAP weather observing systems cleared for operational use by the Regulator • Certified accreditation to required industry standards • Increased forecasting capability through collaborative activities 	
4. Further development of Met Éireann Research Programme	4.1 Continue Met Éireann's Research Programmes through the development of a research funding plan and new schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented Research and Scholarship Professorship Programmes • Expanded Research fellowship and call programmes and developed research collaboration and funding opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased participation in national and international research programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met Éireann launched a Research Call in 2021 for climate modelling and model coupling topics • Examples of live research currently underway and their estimated completion dates include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of atmosphere-ocean-wave coupling models for the energy sector (SEAI competitive research call topic co-funded by Met Éireann), June 2022. • Understanding of the effects of climate change on sea levels using atmosphere-ocean-wave coupling models (EPA competitive research call topic co-funded by Met Éireann), June 2022. • Understanding of the future Irish climate using EC-Earth climate simulations (EPA competitive research call topic co-funded by Met Éireann), December 2022 • A complete list of live research initiated in 2021 can be found in Appendix 3

Strategic Goal F: To conserve, protect, manage and present our built, natural, archaeological heritage, and our biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, including to the environment as well as a support to local communities, regional economic development and sustainable employment

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
1.To promote North-South co-operation, particularly in the context of Waterways Ireland	<p>1.1 Oversight of Waterways Ireland through monitoring committee meetings</p> <p>1.2 Facilitate, support and assist in advancing the strategies and goals of Waterways Ireland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective co-operation of Waterways Ireland and Department for Infrastructure (NI) and effective liaison between key stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) meetings held Quarterly meetings held with Waterways Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three meetings of the NSMC Inland Waterways Sector were held in 2021 Four meetings of the Monitoring Committee were held in 2021 A programme of channel maintenance continued across the waterways An Integrated Design (Project Management) Team for phase 2 of the Ulster Canal Restoration Project - Clonfad to Clones was appointed in 2021 and the process to procure a Design/Build Contractor commenced in September 2021, the first stage was completed by the end of 2021 The restored Meelick Weir and Walkway was opened on 24 September 2021 Waterways Ireland launched the Royal Canal Greenway in March 2021 – Ireland's longest greenway stretching over 130kms from Maynooth in Co Kildare to Cloondara in Co Longford The Shannon Tourism Master Plan was launched in March 2021. The Plan was formulated with Waterways Ireland's strategic partner Fáilte Ireland in collaboration with the ten local authorities adjoining the River Shannon and Shannon-erne Waterway Work on the 46km Barrow Blueway between Lowtown and Athy, continued throughout 2021 and is expected to be completed in late 2022

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
2.To conserve, protect and manage our heritage resources, maximising the benefits for biodiversity and as a support to local communities, regional economic development and sustainable employment	<p>2.1 Build on existing skills to ensure high standards of planning, management and protection competencies are achieved</p> <p>2.2 Protect, restore and conserve heritage sites</p> <p>2.3 Manage and present our Parks and Reserves network as areas of biodiversity / environmental significance and as high value recreational amenities</p> <p>2.4 Implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan</p> <p>2.5 Improved support for research</p> <p>2.6 Progress the delivery of actions within the 3rd National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2017-2021 and draft the 4th NBAP for publication in 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports for the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons across the country • Increased engagement across society in biodiversity matters leading to appropriate protection of our natural habitats and species • Prepare data information indicators for relevant reporting streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of conservation measures undertaken in National Parks/Nature Reserves • The satisfactory conservation status of habitats and species across the country • Number of appropriate community projects funded and completed • Number of structures protected and projects assisted • Number of days of employment created • High level of adherence to conservation and protection • Percentage of actions in the NBAP that are fully implemented or fully ongoing; 4th Plan drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 139 awards under the Community Monuments Fund • 6,298 days of employment created under the Community Monuments Fund • 70 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) formally designated by statutory instrument • 5 Special Protection Area's formally designated by statutory instrument • 9 Towns included in Historic Towns Initiative run by the Heritage Council • 197 grants awarded under Community Heritage Grant Scheme run by the Heritage Council • 372 structures protected and assisted under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme • 76 structures protected and assisted under Historic Structures Fund • 18,406.5 employment days created under Built Heritage Investment Scheme • 9,497 employment days created under Historic Structures Fund • Ongoing implementation of the Climate Change Sectoral Plan • The Enhanced Decommissioning Rehabilitation and Restoration Scheme encompasses work on approximately 33,000 hectares of peatlands previously harvested for peat extraction for electricity generation. In 2021 approval was granted and rehabilitation measures were commenced on sixteen bogs with a total of 2,083 hectares rehabilitated. The Department is acting as the Regulator for this scheme

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department co-funds the Community Foundation Ireland Environment and Nature Fund to connect communities with ecologists to draw up Community Biodiversity Action Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 Community Action Plans were submitted in 2021 • 76 new plans were sanctioned and 28 proposals for implementing actions within existing plans following evaluation • The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) farm plan scheme was further expanded in 2021 and 206 farm plans were agreed by year end • The first draft of the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan was submitted to stakeholders for consideration
3. To ensure greater awareness, appreciation and understanding of Ireland's rich heritage for its intrinsic value and as a cultural, educational and recreational amenity and also as a valuable resource for business and Ireland's green image	3.1 Implementation and review of the National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 3.2 Promote greater awareness of Ireland's rich natural heritage 3.3 Promote cultural, educational and recreational amenities for individuals and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased community awareness of the immense inherent value of Ireland's heritage and biodiversity as an important contributor to national health, wellbeing, economic growth and stakeholder buy-in to its protection • Increased activity during National Heritage Week and the Heritage in Schools Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of schools and pupils involved in the Heritage in Schools Scheme • Number of events and participants at National Heritage Week • Number of local authorities employing a Heritage Officer • Feedback on visitor experience at heritage sites • Number of public engagements and awareness measures supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peatlands habitat restoration measures were completed across an area of 620 hectares of protected raised bog in 2021 through NPWS programmes with other preparatory works undertaken on other bogs • 25 community groups were supported through the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme for local projects • Peatlands and Climate Change animation and illustrations were developed by NPWS promoting peatlands and their restoration and greenhouse gas benefits • 34,272 pupils in 762 schools participated in visits under the 2021 Heritage in Schools Scheme • 1,055 projects were included in a hybrid National Heritage Week 2021 • All 31 local authorities now employ a Heritage Officer

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	3.4 Support an inclusive Citizens' Assembly to examine and propose solutions to the biodiversity emergency and prioritise any legislative reforms recommended by the Citizens' Assembly		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of workshops held to support local authorities • Development of guidance for public authorities • High level of engagement with stakeholders • Number of hectares of raised bog restored • Number of amenities developed • Percentage of conservation target achieved • Level of carbon emissions halted/reduced • Reduction in the number of bog plots being cut in raised bog Special Area of Conservations (SACs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) • Two new raised bog SACs and 25 new raised bog NHAs designated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop was held by the Department to support local authorities operating the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund • Protect Our Past awareness campaign for protection of our archaeological heritage launched in conjunction with OPW • Vernacular Heritage Strategy published • 1,720 Ministerial Recommendations made and issued to local authorities for addition to the Record of Protected Structures • A National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Gardens Survey was completed • A National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Buildings Survey was completed • The Department participated in an EU wide policy initiative, joining the Open Method of Co-operation (OMC) Working Group for High Quality Architecture • 2,886 applicants received annual payments in 2021 under the Raised Bog Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme • 120 biodiversity projects funded for local authorities through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund totalling €1.2 million • Final review of 2017-2021 National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) ongoing; interim review in 2020 concluded that 88 of the 119 actions are of an ongoing or open-ended nature

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of applicants receiving annual payments under the raised bog Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme 	
4. To ensure effective development and implementation of appropriate policies, legislation, actions to comply with EU, national and international heritage obligations	<p>4.1 Effective discharge of regulatory and statutory functions including enactment of Bills to ensure modern and robust legislative framework for the better protection of Ireland's heritage</p> <p>4.2 Launch a new National Heritage Plan - Heritage Ireland 2030 - which will provide a framework for heritage for the next decade</p> <p>4.3 Review the remit, status and funding of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), to ensure that it is playing an effective role in delivering its overall mandate and enforcement role in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adherence to our national, EU and international commitments, thereby protecting our reputation and avoiding financial damage Development of appropriate EU and national legislation Publication of Heritage Ireland 2030 Publication of the NPWS Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of infringement cases brought by EU Commission and what stage in the infringement process; resources allocated to deal with specific cases Number of successful prosecutions by NPWS under Wildlife Acts Number of court cases, including EU, against the NPWS/Department Number of statutory instruments produced Number of Ministerial directions and restoration Orders issued, as required Progress of World Heritage Tentative List and Implementation of World Heritage Sites Management Plans Progress of Bills through Oireachtas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised General Scheme of the Monuments and Archaeological Heritage Bill was approved by Government on 30 November 2021 Commenced the establishment of the National Advisory Committee for the Implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention⁴ Recommendations issued by the Minister to all applicants to Ireland's World Heritage Tentative List to help them further refine their applications and strengthen UNESCO requirements in respect of Outstanding Universal Value Work on a draft World Heritage Strategy was initiated. The Strategy will set out a series of key objectives and actions to manage, develop and raise awareness of World Heritage in Ireland including the addition of new World Heritage Properties to the existing portfolio over the next decade The Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Ireland was published Phase 2 of the ObSERVE programme (being run in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) commenced Detailed site-specific conservation objectives were published for 83 SACs

⁴ Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Indicators	Key Achievements 2021
	<p>the protection of wildlife</p> <p>4.4 Meet all international heritage obligations</p> <p>4.5 Progress further UNESCO designations for Irish sites</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of nominations and designations to UNESCO • Progress in implementation of Heritage Ireland 2030 • Timely transposition of EU Directives 	

Climate Action

The Department will make a significant contribution, through our actions in the [Climate Action Plan](#), to provide for a reduction of 51% of in emissions by 2030.

[Housing for All](#) takes account of our Climate Action targets through the following policies:

- The implementation of Nearly Zero Energy Buildings through our building regulations – which will ensure that whilst we achieve more energy efficient buildings we also build healthy, sustainable and durable buildings suitable for the Irish climate both today and into the future.
- The Department's retrofitting programme for local authority housing is an essential measure to target climate justice – the Department plans to retrofit approximately 40% of local authority dwellings not currently performing to a BER of "B2" to "B2" or cost optimal by 2030.
- The National Planning Framework objective to promote Compact Urban Growth and Town Centres First.
- A commitment to introduce a Minimum Building Energy Rating standard for private rental dwellings from 2025.

A key measure to enable achievement of targets in the renewable energy sector is the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021. This Act establishes in law a new planning regime for the maritime area and will be critical to enabling the establishment of an offshore renewable industry and meet the objective that up to 80% of Ireland's electricity will be sourced from renewables by 2030.

As well as mitigation the Department makes important contributions to adaptation measures in the areas of Water Quality and Water Services, Local Government and Planning. Met Éireann also provides research and climate services in Climate Change.

Met Éireann's ongoing work in support of Climate Action to achieve a climate resilient and climate neutral Ireland includes:

- Informing climate change policy by implementing a climate science programme to understand, analyse and model Ireland's past, current and future climate and disseminating its outputs;
- Supporting climate change impact planning and decision-making by developing and coordinating climate services (i.e. knowledge and tools needed for users to make decisions on climate impacts);
- Monitoring Ireland's climate by delivering advanced, sustainable and long-term climate and environmental monitoring programmes;
- Supporting national climate action capability and capacity building by coordinating climate-related working groups (e.g. GCOS) and implementing a weather and climate research programme;
- Supporting the National Flood Forecasting Warning Service (NFFWS) by building flood forecasting capability;
- Supporting the National Emergency Management during extreme weather events.

As Heritage is now within the remit of the Department, measures to protect biodiversity are also a welcome inclusion in the [Climate Action Plan](#) as are measures to protect Ireland's peatlands and to return degraded peatlands to carbon sinks or carbon neutral systems. The expansion of Ireland's Marine Protected Area (MPA) network will consider in its development the protection of blue carbon systems, thus protecting and enhancing marine carbon sinks.

In addition to these major actions which will make significant impacts on carbon emissions, the Department has a number of supporting actions which are critical to the reductions. These include Wind Energy Guidelines, measures to support the reduction of embodied carbon in construction materials and implementation of requirements for electric vehicle recharging infrastructure.

In 2021, National Monuments Service and Built Heritage Policy drove implementation of the [Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage](#), strengthening sectoral engagement through the Implementation and Advisory group of stakeholders, and capturing and supporting relevant activity of the many partners in delivering the Plan's key objectives and actions.

The [Vernacular Heritage Strategy](#) launched in December 2021 embraced various climate change mitigation measures, to be complemented by the [National Policy on Architecture and Heritage Ireland 2030](#). Significant increases in 2021 archaeological and architectural heritage grant schemes led to considerable progress in meeting the fundamental objective of protecting Ireland's irreplaceable heritage from the impacts of climate change, identifying heritage assets at risk and putting in place practical climate-adaptation and resilience-building measures for heritage properties in public and private ownership.

The Department's [Climate Change Adaptation Plan for both the Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure](#) sectors presented an assessment of key future climate risks to these sectors, while describing the adaptive measures available to build a climate resilient water sector. Many of the proposed adaptation measures were already underway when the plan was published. However, further measures evolved in 2021 to help address the negative impacts of climate change. These included;

- Delivery of a National Implementation Strategy for Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas
- Development of interim guidance on best practice solutions for using nature based solutions for the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas
- A sustained high level of investment by Irish Water in waste water infrastructure to address deficits and future growth needs.

The Department also launched a public consultation on the draft [River Basin Management Plan](#) for the period 2022-2027. Providing a coordinated programme of measures for improving the quality of our waters, the plan also seeks to ensure that measures selected can deliver multiple benefits for water, biodiversity and climate.

The Department is supporting and driving many climate related actions across a local and national level and will continue with this work while also working with international partners to drive the climate change agenda.

Corporate Information

COVID-19

The Department's corporate function worked throughout 2021 to ensure the ongoing provision of services. The majority of staff continued to work remotely, other than where their role or business needs required their presence.

Facilities Management Unit lead on Department compliance with all Government guidelines to ensure that all locations had the necessary COVID-19 prevention measures in place, to provide a safe place of work for those staff that were required to attend the office. Measures included enhanced cleaning regimes, developing close contact logging procedures and the procurement of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment for staff.

The ICT unit continued to support staff working remotely, ensuring full access to all ICT services, including migrating the Heritage Division to the Build to Share managed desktop service

Blended working was further supported by the continued virtual delivery of training via WEBEX, ZOOM and MS Teams platforms

Under our internal people strategy, 'WELL', we rolled out a series of webinars and Lunch and Learn sessions covering topics such as 'resilience', dealing with change in the work environment,' 'stress management' and 'living with loss' in the COVID-19 context. These initiatives were further enhanced by presentations to staff from our Employees Assistance Officer.

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Unit (IAU) is an independent unit within the Department's corporate governance structure, reporting to the Secretary General and the Audit Committee. The IAU's role is to provide independent, objective assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Department's framework for governance, risk management and control.

The IAU operates in accordance with the Internal Audit Standards and Guidelines of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) and the Institute of Internal Auditors' International Professional Practices Framework.

The IAU completed seven internal audits in 2021. In addition, seven follow-up audit reports and two reports tracking audit recommendations yet to be implemented were also prepared.

The IAU continues to provide the Secretariat to the Department's independent Audit Committee, supporting the Committee in its role of advising the Secretary General on the suitability and robustness of the Department's systems and procedures for governance, risk management and internal controls. The Audit Committee's work in 2021 was completed remotely, including the four meetings held during the year.

Green Public Procurement

The Department is developing its Corporate Procurement Plan which includes requirements in respect of Green Public Procurement.

Green Procurement is one of the environmental aspects covered under the Department's Environmental Management System Work Programme. This Management System is in place in the Custom House, Ballina and Wexford and is accredited to the ISO 14001:2015 Standard.

2021 Green Public Procurement (GPP)			
Priority Sector	Number Of GPP Contracts Issued Over €25,000	Value Of GPP Contracts Issued Over €25,000	Spend 2021
Energy	-		€291,411.91 (VAT inclusive) €256,750.58 (VAT exclusive)
Transport	1	€32,000.00 (VAT inclusive) €26,016.23 (VAT exclusive)	€32,000.00 (VAT inclusive) €26,016.23 (VAT exclusive)
Cleaning Products and Services	1	€1,076,792.66 (VAT inclusive) €948,716.00 (VAT exclusive)	€83,901.26 (VAT inclusive) €73,921.80 (VAT exclusive)
Paper Products & Printing Services	1	€369,000.00 (VAT inclusive) €300,000.00 (VAT exclusive)	€369,000.00 (VAT inclusive) €300,000.00 (VAT exclusive)
Totals	3	€1,477,792.66 (VAT inclusive) €1,274,732.23 (VAT exclusive)	€776,313.17 (VAT inclusive) €656,688.61 (VAT exclusive)

Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 requires all public bodies to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of its staff and customers alike. This responsibility is known as the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty and is a legal obligation. In 2021, the Department's internal working group, continued to address the implementation of our Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. Work progressed in the following areas:

- Universal Design and Action Plan

An Access Team was established in 2019 and to date has finalised its Terms of Reference, Aims and Objectives, [Formal Policy](#), and a 3-year Action Plan with nine priority areas with 53 specific actions. Under the 53 actions, an Accessibility Audit was carried out for Custom House, Ballina and Wexford. An audit for Met Éireann will take place in 2022. Each completed Access Audit was forwarded to the Office of Public Works for remedial action. Training offered to staff included a four-day Disability Awareness training course, in May 2021. A review of the Facilities Management Unit's contracts / Service Level Agreements was carried out to review prevalence of access criteria in procurement exercises. The Access team will continue to complete the 53 actions agreed in the Action Plan.

- Electoral Reform Bill

Work was ongoing throughout 2021 on the research and preparation of the Electoral Reform Bill, published in January 2022. The Bill provides for the establishment of an independent Electoral Commission, the regulation of online political advertising and the modernisation of the registration process. The Electoral Commission will assume a range of new and existing functions with the objective of making our voting system more accessible and more inclusive.

Key functions of the Commission will include:

- The extension of flexible voting arrangements which will ensure a more accessible voting system going forward.
- A research and advisory function which will see research being carried out on electoral policy and procedure to provide advice to the Minister and the Government on electoral issues and legislative proposals.
- A public information and education role with a view to increase voter participation in electoral events, notably among marginalised or traditionally under-represented groups.
- The Bill also provides for the modernisation of the electoral registration process, including the simplification of forms, the streamlining of registration processes and the introduction of an online option.

- Housing Strategy for Disabled People

Work on drafting a new housing strategy for disabled people including two rounds of consultation continued during 2021. A new strategy will be published early in 2022.

- Housing Options for our Ageing Population

The Implementation Group for the 40 Actions in Housing Options for our Ageing Population completed its work in December 2021. Work on a number of the Actions is ongoing, A third and final report of the Group will be published in 2022.

- The Housing Needs of the Traveller Community

A Programme Board has been set up to consider and implement the recommendations of the Traveller Accommodation Expert Review report. Regular updates on progress are published on the Department's website.

Irish Language Commitments

The Department published its fifth Language Scheme in May 2020 under the Official Languages Act, 2003. The Department remains committed to providing services in Irish and/or bilingually to its customers as set out in the Scheme, and to the statutory obligations arising on foot of the Official Languages Act.

In 2021, the Department translated 402 reports, social media posts, press releases, public consultation pages and policy documents to Irish. The Irish language was promoted in the organisation throughout the year.

Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment

In 2021, the Department received 360 valid Freedom of Information requests in addition to 19 that were live at the start of the year. Of these, 90 requests were granted; 175 were part-granted; 92 were refused and 22 were live at year-end.

In addition, the Department received 108 requests under the Access to Information on the Environment regulations in addition to 5 that were live at the start of the year. Of these, 23 requests were granted; 44 were part-granted; 23 were refused and 17 were withdrawn. 6 requests were live at year-end.

Quality Customer Service

This Department is committed to providing the highest quality service to all its customers. Our [Customer Charter](#) and our [Customer Service Action Plan](#) outline the standards of service you can expect to receive whether you contact us by phone, by email, by letter or in person. The Department aims to resolve all queries within 15 days, unless there are particular reasons why this cannot be done.

In 2021, the Department received 1,589, queries to our quality customer service mailbox. A 17% increase compared to 1,321 emails received in 2020.

An analysis of queries indicates that 97% of queries were resolved within the 15-day time-frame, no change compared to 2020.

Oireachtas Support

Parliamentary Questions	2019	2020*	2021
Questions Received	3,286	2,933	4,812
Questions Answered ¹	2,776	2,445	4,075
Type of Question Answered¹:			
Oral	411	230	371
Written	2,365	2,215	3,704
COVID-19-related Queries from Deputies **			
Received	-	145	-
Answered ¹	-	129	-
Topical Issues Debates			
	134	139	174
Commencement Matters			
	89	51	116
Representations and Invitations			
Representations ²	3,515	3,457	4,479
Invitations ³	1,077	883	1,133

*The 2020 figures do not reflect Heritage items prior to the transfer of functions in September 2020.

**In the absence of Parliamentary Questions during April and May 2020, TDs submitted COVID-19-related queries

1 The remainder of questions/COVID-19 queries were disallowed, withdrawn or transferred.

2 Represents totals from Minister's and Ministers of State's Offices.

3 Represents totals from Minister's and Ministers of State's Offices.

Human Resources - WELL, Our People Strategy

The Department's People Strategy for 2018-2020, 'WELL', contains over 50 separate actions across the four themes/pillars of Wellbeing, Engagement, Learning & Development and Leadership. By Q1 of 2021 there had been significant implementation and progress on of all the strategy's Goals, Actions and Strategy Enablers. To leverage the established benefits of the strategy and its ongoing implementation, a new iteration of the strategy will be developed in 2022.



In 2021 in light of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department's Human Resources, Training and Facilities Units adapted work processes and implemented new practices to support and develop staff in such a way to allow the successful continuation of service to the public.

Our Mentoring programme is now in year 4 and considered 'business as usual' in the Department. This year we continued to harness the power of WEBEX and the digital delivery of services to implement a virtual programme with approximately 34 participants.

Staff Numbers

During 2021, a total of 324 staff were recruited - a mix of new hires to the civil service, transfers on promotion, and mobility. We also lost 162 staff due to a mix of transfers on promotion, retirements, cessation of contracts and resignations.

The number of staff serving in the Department at year-end 2021 equated to 1,365.50 Whole Time Equivalent posts, an increase of almost 160 against the position at the end of 2020.

A revised and updated Workforce Plan for the period 2019-2021 was approved by the Management Board and provided the principal policy basis for our recruitment campaigns throughout 2021. It also took account of the additional staffing demands arising from the Programme for Government, along with the resource requirements for the Heritage Division which transferred to this department during Q4 2020.

Training and Development

All staff are supported to avail of development opportunities identified through the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS), which is used as a key tool in support of improved organisational performance, with an 88% compliance rate achieved in 2021.

Under the Learning and Development Priority of our People Strategy, we are building capability and capacity through the provision of relevant and appropriate training across all grades and departmental locations.

Support is provided to staff undertaking formal education in subjects relevant to their work through our Refund of Fees Scheme and dedicated learning structures, and our Refund of Professional Fees Scheme ensures staff have access to membership of accredited and professional bodies as required.

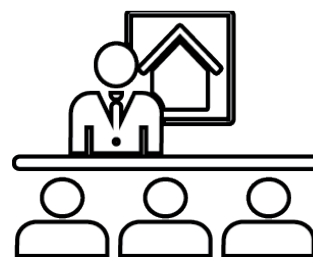
In 2021, staff members undertook studies in areas such as law, finance, statistics, human resources management, ICT and economics, areas which have been identified as priorities for the business needs of the organisation.

Coaching relationships were established for a number of Senior Managers and Corporate Memberships were renewed for the Irish Management Institute and Institute of Public Administration Governance Forum to allow staff access to world-class executive development opportunities all year round.

Bespoke training was also provided in a number of areas including, National Basic and Advanced Powerboat, Safety Officer / Coordinator Training, Tractor Driving, Strimmer Training, Rigid Truck Driving, Manual Handling, Fire Marshal, Ladder Safety, Chainsaw Training, VHF Radio, Trailer Towing and Test, Sea Survival, Artic Truck Driving and Firearms Safe Handling.

Apprenticeships in the Public Sector

During 2021 the Department participated in the national pilot ICT Apprenticeship, ICT Associate Professional Software Developer Apprenticeship, and ICT Associate Professional Network Engineer Apprenticeship programmes and an EO ICT professional has been appointed to the Department as part of this process. The pilot programme itself is currently being evaluated by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The Department will continue to examine its participation in further apprenticeship pilots and programmes as they arise.



ICT Developments

ICT completed the migration of Heritage function from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media onto the Department network as per the transfer of functions. The Department continued to utilise the Build to Share (BTS) initiative in line with the Civil Service Renewal Plan and the Public Service Reform Framework including the migration of Heritage Division to the BTS managed desktop service and the rollout of the ePQ and eLists applications.

Return to Office Project was implemented to ensure staff had the ICT equipment and connectivity to successfully return to office. Met Éireann commenced the Infrastructure Modernisation and Management service project.

The office of the Chief Information Officer delivered the Department Data Strategy and is developing the Digital Strategy for the Department and the wider Local Government sector.

The Department virtualised all Cyber Awareness training and delivered training and testing to all staff via an eLearning platform which achieved over 90% compliance. ICT Project Management Office was established and began operation.

The work to consolidate the Department's main websites continued in 2021 ensuring enhanced security and performance. ICT also delivered 6 new websites and decommissioned 2 sites.

Data Strategy 'Foundations Sprint 2021-24'

This is the first data strategy for the Department, building on the past and current work on data, analytics and statistics, enabling and supporting the wider digital transformation programme of the organisation towards 2030. The data strategy is a 10 years continuum that will be revisited and re-adjusted along three sprints with a duration of three years each. Over its duration the data strategy will cover a breadth of functional areas in the Department to include Housing, Planning, Heritage, Met Éireann, Water, and Local Government. The initial priority focus will be on Housing Delivery data.

Prompt Payment

In 2021, the Department paid 89.56% of all invoices within 15 calendar days, and 99.51% of all invoices within 30 calendar days.

In respect of the year overall, the Department incurred late payment interest charges of €1,853.83. The value of all late payments as a percentage of all invoiced payments in 2021 was 0.49%. In addition to the late payment interest, compensation costs amounting to €8,530 were paid in 2021.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Legislative Activity In 2021

Relevant Acts of the Oireachtas in 2021

[Residential Tenancies Act 2021 \(No. 5 of 2021\)](#)

[Planning and Development, Heritage and Broadcasting \(Amendment\) Act 2021 \(No. 11 of 2021\)](#)

[Residential Tenancies \(No. 2\) Act 2021 \(No. 17 of 2021\)](#)

[Planning and Development \(Amendment\) Act 2021 \(No. 18 of 2021\)](#)

[Affordable Housing Act 2021 \(No. 25 of 2021\)](#)

[Land Development Agency Act 2021 \(No. 26 of 2021\)](#)

[Residential Tenancies \(Amendment\) Act 2021 \(No. 39 of 2021\)](#)

[Planning and Development \(Amendment\) \(Large-scale Residential Development\) Act 2021 \(No. 40 of 2021\)](#)

[Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 \(No. 50 of 2021\)](#)

Statutory Instruments in 2021

S.I. No	Description
9/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2021</u>
25/2021	<u>Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Act 2019 (Commencement) Order 2021</u>
92/2021	<u>Dumping At Sea Act 1996 (Section 5(12)) (Commencement) Order 2021</u>
114/2021	<u>Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) Regulations 2021</u>
115/2021	<u>Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 2) Regulations 2021</u>
116/2021	<u>Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2021</u>
145/2021	<u>European Union (Foreshore Act 1933) (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2021</u>
156/2021	<u>Building Control (Commencement Notices) (Residential and Childcare Services Construction) Regulations 2021</u>
185/2021	<u>Heritage Fund (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 2021</u>
208/2021	<u>Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 3) Regulations 2021</u>

209/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Street Furniture Fees) Regulations 2021</u>
210/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2021</u>
214/2021	<u>Building Control (Commencement Notices) (Construction Resumption) Regulations 2021</u>
229/2021	<u>Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2021</u>
247/2021	<u>Valuation Act 2001 (Prescribed Means For Certificates, Notices and Other) Regulations 2021</u>
279/2021	<u>Planning and Development, Heritage and Broadcasting (Amendment) Act 2021 (Part 2) (Commencement) Order 2021</u>
285/2021	<u>Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) (Amendment) Regulations 2021</u>
293/2021	<u>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 2021</u>
301/2021	<u>Electoral Act 1992 (Special Difficulty) Order 2021</u>
312/2021	<u>Local Government (Remuneration of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2021</u>
313/2021	<u>Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2021</u>
319/2021	<u>Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (Property Vesting Day) Order 2021</u>
320/2021	<u>Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Act 2019 (Commencement) (No. 2) Order 2021</u>
342/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Cleanderry Wood Special Area of Conservation 001043) Regulations 2020</u>
343/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Courtmacsherry Estuary Special Area of Conservation 001230) Regulations 2020</u>
344/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Ballyhoura Mountains Special Area of Conservation 002036) Regulations 2020</u>
345/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Glenasmole Valley Special Area of Conservation 001209) Regulations 2020</u>
346/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Spahill and Clomantagh Hill Special Area of Conservation 000849) Regulations 2020</u>
347/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Glanmore Bog Special Area of Conservation 001879) Regulations 2020</u>
348/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Gannivegil Bog Special Area of Conservation 000142) Regulations 2020</u>
349/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Coolvoy Bog Special Area of Conservation 001107) Regulations 2020</u>

350/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Dunragh Loughs/Pettigo Plateau Special Area of Conservation 001125) Regulations 2020</u>
351/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Maulagowna Bog Special Area of Conservation (001881) Regulations 2020</u>
352/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Slieve Mish Mountains Special Area of Conservation 002185) Regulations 2020</u>
361/2021	<u>Residential Tenancies (No. 2) Act 2021 (Commencement) Order 2021</u>
362/2021	<u>Residential Tenancies Act 2004 (Prescribed Form) Regulations 2021</u>
365/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2021 (Commencement) Order 2021</u>
388/2021	<u>European Union Conservation of Wild Birds (Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven Special Protection Area 004037) Regulations 2021</u>
389/2021	<u>European Union Conservation of Wild Birds (Falcarragh To Meenlaragh Special Protection Area 004149) Regulations 2021</u>
390/2021	<u>European Union Conservation of Wild Birds (Connemara Bog Complex Special Protection Area 004181) Regulations 2021</u>
391/2021	<u>European Union Conservation of Wild Birds (Cork Harbour Special Protection Area 004030) Regulations 2021</u>
392/2021	<u>European Union Conservation of Wild Birds (West Donegal Islands Special Protection Area 004230) Regulations 2021</u>
393/2021	<u>European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2021</u>
424/2021	<u>Affordable Housing Act 2021 (Commencement) (Part 1 and 3) Order 2021</u>
425/2021	<u>Affordable Housing Act 2021 (Cost Rental Designation) Regulations 2021</u>
426/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Caha Mountains Special Area of Conservation 000093) Regulations 2021</u>
427/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog Special Area of Conservation 001873) Regulations 2021</u>
428/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Fawnboy Bog/Lough Nacung Special Area of Conservation 000140) Regulations 2021</u>
429/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Meenaguse/Ardbane Bog Special Area of Conservation 000172) Regulations 2021</u>
430/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Meenaguse Scragh Special Area of Conservation 001880) Regulations 2021</u>
431/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Maumturk Mountains Special Area of Conservation 002008) Regulations 2021</u>

432/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Lough Yganavan and Lough Nambrackdarrig Special Area of Conservation 000370) Regulations 2021</u>
433/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Boyne Coast and Estuary Special Area of Conservation 001957) Regulations 2021</u>
434/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo Special Area of Conservation 001810) Regulations 2021</u>
435/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Ballyteige Burrow Special Area of Conservation 000696) Regulations 2021</u>
437/2021	<u>Valuation Act 2001 (Application to Commissioner) (Amendment of Fees) Regulations 2021</u>
450/2021	<u>Affordable Housing Act 2021 (Commencement of Certain Provisions) Order 2021</u>
455/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 (Commencement) Order 2021</u>
456/2021	<u>European Union (Planning) (Habitats, Birds and Environmental Impact) Regulations 2021</u>
457/2021	<u>European Union (Planning) (Habitats, Birds and Environmental Impact) (No. 2) Regulations 2021</u>
458/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2021 (Commencement) (No. 2) Order 2021</u>
459/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2021</u>
469/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Corratirrim Special Area of Conservation 000979) Regulations 2021</u>
470/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Roaringwater Bay and Islands Special Area of Conservation 000101) Regulations 2021</u>
471/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Rutland Island and Sound Special Area of Conservation 002283) Regulations 2021</u>
472/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Baldoyle Bay Special Area of Conservation 000199) Regulations 2021</u>
473/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (River Shannon Callows Special Area of Conservation 000216) Regulations 2021</u>
474/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Aughrusbug Machair and Lake Special Area of Conservation 001228) Regulations 2021</u>
475/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Omey Island Machair Special Area of Conservation 001309) Regulations 2021</u>
476/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Cross Lough (Killadoon) Special Area of Conservation 000484) Regulations 2021</u>

477/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough Special Area of Conservation 001529) Regulations 2021</u>
478/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs Special Area of Conservation 000636) Regulations 2021</u>
518/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Moneen Mountain Special Area of Conservation 000054) Regulations 2021</u>
519/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Sheep's Head Special Area of Conservation 000102) Regulations 2021</u>
520/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Lough Melvin Special Area of Conservation 000428) Regulations 2021</u>
521/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Kindrum Lough Special Area of Conservation 000428) Regulations 2021</u>
522/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Tamur Bog Special Area of Conservation 001992) Regulations 2021</u>
523/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Lough Nageage Special Area of Conservation 002135) Regulations 2021</u>
524/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Howth Head Special Area of Conservation 000202) Regulations 2021</u>
525/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Slyne Head Peninsula Special Area of Conservation 002074) Regulations 2021</u>
526/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Murvey Machair Special Area of Conservation 002129) Regulations 2021</u>
527/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Urlaur Lakes Special Area of Conservation 001571) Regulations 2021</u>
533/2021	<u>Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (Property Vesting Day) (No. 2) Order 2021</u>
547/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Ballyogan Lough Special Area of Conservation 000019) Regulations 2021</u>
548/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation 000268) Regulations 2021</u>
549/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs Special Area of Conservation 000097) Regulations 2021</u>
550/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane Special Area of Conservation 002070) Regulations 2021</u>
551/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Broadhaven Bay Special Area of Conservation 000472) Regulations 2021</u>
552/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Ox Mountains Bogs Special Area of Conservation 002006) Regulations 2021</u>

553/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Lough Dahybaun Special Area of Conservation 002177) Regulations 2021</u>
554/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough Special Area of Conservation 002339) Regulations 2021</u>
555/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Ballyduff/Clonfinane Bog Special Area of Conservation 000641) Regulations 2021</u>
556/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Kilcarren-Firville Bog Special Area of Conservation 000647) Regulations 2021</u>
588/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2021</u>
648/2021	<u>Electoral (Polling Schemes) Regulations 2021</u>
649/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands Special Area of Conservation 001021) Regulations 2021</u>
650/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Slieve League Special Area of Conservation 000189) Regulations 2021</u>
651/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Slieve Tooey/Tormore Island/Loughros Beg Bay Special Area of Conservation 000190) Regulations 2021</u>
652/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill Special Area of Conservation 002164) Regulations 2021</u>
653/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Kilsallagh Bog Special Area of Conservation 000285) Regulations 2021</u>
654/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Corliskea/Trien/Cloonfelliv Bog Special Area of Conservation 002110) Regulations 2021</u>
655/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Ardgraique Bog Special Area of Conservation 002356) Regulations 2021</u>
656/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Keeper Hill Special Area of Conservation 001197) Regulations 2021</u>
657/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Redwood Bog Special Area of Conservation 002353) Regulations 2021</u>
659/2021	<u>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) (Amendment) Regulations 2021</u>
714/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 (Commencement) Order 2021</u>
716/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Large-scale Residential Development) Regulations 2021</u>
701/2021	<u>Housing Loan Regulations 2021</u>
720/2021	<u>Planning and Development (Large-scale Residential Development Fees) Regulations 2021</u>

721/2021	<u>Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (Property Vesting Day) (No.3) Order 2021</u>
723/2021	<u>Residential Tenancies Act 2004 (Prescribed Form)(No.2) Regulations 2021.</u>
726/2021	<u>Land Registration Rules 2021</u>
727/2021	<u>Registration Of Deeds Rules 2021</u>
728/2021	<u>Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Act 2019 (Commencement) (No. 3) Order 2021</u>
749/2021	<u>European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) (Amendment) Regulations 2021</u>
755/2021	<u>Affordable Housing Act 2021 (Cost Rental Letting and Eligibility) Regulations 2021</u>
756/2021	<u>Affordable Housing Act 2021 (Cost Rental Setting) Regulations 2021</u>
758/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex Special Area of Conservation 000020) Regulations 2021</u>
759/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Lough Lurgeen Bog/Glenamaddy Turlough Special Area of Conservation 000301) Regulations 2021</u>
760/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Rusheenduff Lough Special Area of Conservation 001311) Regulations 2021</u>
761/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Lough Hoe Bog Special Area of Conservation 000633) Regulations 2021</u>
762/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Moneybeg and Clareisland Bogs Special Area of Conservation 002340) Regulations 2021</u>
763/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Bellanagare Bog Special Area of Conservation 000592) Regulations 2021</u>
764/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Callow Bog Special Area of Conservation 000595) Regulations 2021</u>
765/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Drumalough Bog Special Area of Conservation 002338) Regulations 2021</u>
766/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Corbo Bog Special Area of Conservation 002337) Regulations 2021</u>
767/2021	<u>European Union Habitats (Crosswood Bog Special Area of Conservation 002337) Regulations 2021</u>
776/2021	<u>Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2021</u>

Appendix 2: Publications In 2021

The main publications produced by the Department during 2021 are detailed below:

- [2021 Review of the Mortgage to Rent \(MTR\) Scheme for Borrowers of Commercial Private Lending Institutions](#)
- [Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Building Momentum - Local Authority Action Plan](#)
- [Building Regulations 2021 Technical Guidance Document L Conservation of Fuel and Energy – Dwellings](#)
- [Burning of the Custom House Centenary Commemoration](#)
- [Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme: Your Questions Answered](#)
- [Design Manual for Quality Housing](#)
- [Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2021 - Technical Guidance](#)
- [Expanding Ireland's Marine Protected Area Network](#)
- [Government Policy Paper on Water Sector Transformation](#)
- [Guidance on the Strict Protection of Certain Animal and Plant Species under the Habitats Directive in Ireland](#)
- [Guidelines for Housing Authorities - Minimum Standards in Rented Accommodation](#)
- [Housing First National Implementation Plan 2022-2026](#)
- [Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland](#)
- [Marine Strategy Framework Directive \(2008/56/EC\) - Article 17 Update to Ireland's Marine Strategy Part 2: Monitoring Programme \(Article 11\)](#)
- [National Marine Planning Framework](#)
- [Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas](#)
- [Organisational Capability Review Implementation Plan](#)
- [Organisational Capability Review Report](#)
- [Protected Disclosures Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Regulation of Commercial Institutional Investment in Housing – Guidelines for Planning Authorities](#)
- [Report from the Working Group on the Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme](#)
- [Report of the Implementation Advisory Group established to consider a directly elected mayor with executive functions for Limerick city and county](#)
- [Sceilg Mhichíl World Heritage Property Management Plan 2020–30](#)

- [Seventh Progress Report on the Implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability: January - December 2020](#)
- [Statement of Strategy 2021-2025](#)
- [The Moore Street Advisory Group Report](#)
- [Unfinished Housing Developments: Progress Update from 2017 to 2020 by Local Authority](#)
- [Vacant and Void Dwellings in Local Authorities](#)

Appendix 3: Met Éireann Research Initiated In 2021

Live research currently underway at Met Éireann (title, estimated completion date):

- Development of atmosphere-ocean-wave coupling models for the energy sector (SEAI competitive research call topic co-funded by Met Éireann), June 2022.
- Understanding of the effects of climate change on sea levels using atmosphere-ocean-wave coupling models (EPA competitive research call topic co-funded by Met Éireann), June 2022.
- Understanding of the future Irish climate using EC-Earth climate simulations (EPA competitive research call topic co-funded by Met Éireann), December 2022.
- Production of National standard climate maps to support Irish building standards (fully funded Met Éireann postdoctoral researcher), January 2023.
- Production of climate monitoring indices and products (fully funded Met Éireann postdoctoral researcher), January 2023.
- TRANSLATE – standardised climate projections for Ireland and development of climate services (fully funded Met Éireann competitive research call topic), January 2023.
- Fog Forecasting for Irish Airports Using Machine Learning Methods (fully funded Met Éireann postdoctoral researcher), October 2023.
- Environmental Monitoring Laboratory Processes (fully funded Met Éireann postdoctoral researcher), January 2024.
- Future Weather: An Investigation of Storm Scenarios for Ireland (fully funded Met Éireann postdoctoral researcher), April 2024.
- Flood Inundation Forecasting using Machine Learning and Remote Sensing (IRC Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship fully funded by Met Éireann), September 2025.
- SFI Centre for Research Training use of Applied Mathematics, Statistical Learning & Machine learning for weather and climate research (SFI competitive research call topic co-funded by Met Éireann), December 2025.
- Improving EC-Earth's modelling of the North Atlantic Ocean-Atmosphere system (fully funded Met Éireann competitive research call topic), June 2026.
- Enhancing soil moisture monitoring and modelling using the novel Cosmic Ray Neutron technique in the newly-established Irish Soil Moisture Monitoring Network (ISMON) (Teagasc Walsh Scholarship co-funded by Met Éireann), May 2026.

Appendix 4: Public Consultations Undertaken In 2021

- [Public Consultation on the Natura Impact Statement and Strategic Environmental Assessment for Ireland's Draft Fifth Nitrates Action Programme](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Draft Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Draft Guidance for Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings](#)
- [Public consultation on the mid-term review of the National Peatlands Strategy](#)
- [Transboundary Environmental Public Consultation - Decision on the extension of the operational life of the Doel 1 & 2 Nuclear Power Plants, located near the Port of Antwerp, Belgium](#)
- [Public Consultation strand of the Strategic Review of the National Parks and Wildlife Service](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Draft Code of Practice for Fire Safety Assessment of Premises and Buildings](#)
- [Public Consultation on expert advisory group report entitled "Expanding Ireland's Marine Protected Area Network"](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Corofin Property Feasibility Study, Streetscape Enhancement Strategy](#)
- [Public Consultation on Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme \(August 2021\)](#)

Appendix 5: Bodies under the Aegis of the Department at Year-End 2021

Body	Accountable Person (Head of Office)	Governing Legislation
An Bord Pleanála	David Walsh	Planning and Development Act 2000
Housing Finance Agency	Barry O'Leary	Housing Finance Agency Act 1981
The Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency	Bob Jordan	Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency (Establishment) Order 2012
Ervia	Cathal Marley	Gas Act 1976
- Irish Water	Niall Gleeson	Water Services Act 2013
- Gas Networks Ireland	Cathal Marley	Gas Regulation Act 2013
Local Government Management Agency	Paul C. Dunne	Local Government Management Agency (Establishment) Orders 2012 and 2013
Ordnance Survey Ireland	Colin Bray	Ordnance Survey Ireland Act 2001
Property Registration Authority	Liz Pope	Registration of Deeds and Title Act 2006
Residential Tenancies Board	Padraig McGoldrick (Interim Director)	Residential Tenancies Act 2004
Valuation Office	Colm Lavery	Valuation Acts 2001 and 2015
Valuation Tribunal	Carol O'Farrell	Valuation Act 2001, s. 12
Land Development Agency	Cormac O'Rourke	Land Development Agency Act 2021
Office of the Planning Regulator	Niall Cussen	Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018
Pyrite Resolution Board	Martin Lynch	Pyrite Resolution Act 2013
National Oversight and Audit Commission	Claire Gavin	Local Government Reform Act 2014
Water Advisory Body	Paul McGowan	Water Services Act 2017
An Fóram Uisce	Matt Crowe	Water Services Act 2017
National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Eoin O'Sullivan	Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 - S. 19
Waterways Ireland	John McDonagh	British-Irish Agreement Act, 1999
Heritage Council	Virginia Teehan	The Heritage Act 1995, s. 5 (amended by Heritage Act 2018)
Docklands Oversight and Consultative Forum	Michael Stubbs	Dublin Docklands Development Authority (Dissolution) Act 2015
Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority	Suzanna Lyons	Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Act 2019

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Department of Housing, Local Government and
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