



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

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

2022

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Secretary General's Statement



I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The department's remit is large, complex and very diverse in its functions and responsibilities. Across our six programme areas - housing, water, local government and electoral reform, planning, Met Éireann, and heritage – significant achievements were accomplished in 2022, progress on which the department can build in the following years.

It is within our remit for housing where the department receives the greatest scrutiny. I am happy to report that, in 2022, almost 30,000 new dwellings were completed - an increase of 45% from 2021 and 41% up from pre-pandemic activity in 2019. This achievement ensured that we surpassed our target for 2022 under the government's 'Housing for All' strategy by 5,251 homes (or 21.3%) above the original target of 24,600.

Indeed, significant progress was made under the 'Housing for All' throughout 2022, with over 19,000 new-build social homes in the pipeline and over 2,700 more local authority affordable homes already approved for funding along with further affordable housing being planned by the Land Development Agency and Approved Housing Bodies. In fact, in 2022, social home delivery represented the highest annual output of social homes in decades and the highest level of delivery of new-build social housing since 1975.

Other initiatives to increase housing supply and ownership included a new Croí Cónaithe (cities) initiative to improve the viability of apartment development in cities, the popular new Vacant Property Refurbishment grant to bring formerly vacant buildings back into use, the new First Home scheme to assist first time buyers to purchase a home, the Local Authority Home Loan and the extension of the Help to Buy Scheme.

During the year, we continued the rollout of Cost Rental accommodation, a new form of state-backed secure, long-term rental tenure through which rents are aimed at a minimum of 25% below open market rates. In 2022, the government increased the funding available through the Affordable Housing Fund and the Cost Rental Equity Loan to make cost rental homes available at prices that are affordable.

Homelessness remained a significant challenge throughout the year. To address the issue, €242m in funding was provided to local authorities towards the provision of homeless services. In November 2022, the department launched the new Youth Homelessness

Strategy, setting out 27 distinct actions to prevent young people from entering homelessness, to improve the experiences of young people in emergency accommodation and to assist young people to exit homelessness. Tackling homelessness continues to be a top priority for our department.

Significant work took place across other areas of the department's remit also. In support of housing initiatives, 4,258 connections were completed to water infrastructure, supporting over 25,000 homes. Uisce Éireann was provided with €1.4bn to ensure a quality, sustainable water supply.

Efforts to protect our natural heritage continued - including significant additional resources being given to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and restoration measures completed on more than 300 hectares of peatlands habitat. Work also progressed on the Irish Early Flood Warning System.

Several pieces of vital legislation were enacted in 2022, including the Electoral Reform Act 2022, Remediation of Dwellings Damaged by the Use of Defective Concrete Blocks Act 2022, the Tailte Éireann Act 2022 and the Water Services Amendment Act 2022, among others.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Minister O'Brien, Minister Noonan and Minister O'Donnell for their continued support and guidance throughout 2022. I also want to recognise and acknowledge the vital contribution of our local authorities, bodies under the aegis of the department and all other bodies who the department works with and helped us to achieve our strategic goals in 2022.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude and thanks to the department's staff. The work of our department touches on the lives of every citizen in the state. I have the privilege to work in a department whose employees exemplify the best of public service - working with great dedication and diligence to provide solutions for some of society's toughest challenges. This report reflects their commitment to making Ireland a better place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Graham Doyle'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'G'.

Graham Doyle
Secretary General

Our Department

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 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 2022 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



Department by Numbers

| | | | |
|--|----------------|--|------------------|
| Overall Expenditure on the Department's Six Strategic Programmes | €5.725 billion | Social Housing Supports Provided | 19,938 |
| Bills Enacted | 10 | Exchequer Funding Provided to Uisce Éireann to Meet the Cost of Domestic Water Services | €1.415 billion |
| Statutory Instruments Made | 113 | LPT Allocations Paid to Local Authorities | €524 million |
| Public Consultations Held | 16 | Proposals Funded under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund | 132 ¹ |
| Number of Staff Serving in the Department | 1,561 | Met Éireann Climate Observations | 280,000 |
| Contracts Awarded for Consultancy, Supplies and Services, Valued over €25,000 | 128 | Visitors to National Parks & Wildlife Service sites | 5.5 million |

¹ The approved proposals are made up of a selection of subprojects. There are c.387 individual projects within the 132 proposals that are receiving URDF support.

Financial Expenditure

Total gross expenditure in respect of the department’s six strategic programmes reached €5.725 billion in 2022. Departmental (Exchequer) expenditure of €5.357 billion was supplemented by capital carryover from 2021 of €275.8 million plus €92.049 million from Local Property Tax (LPT) receipts, which was used by certain local authorities to fund a range of housing programmes.

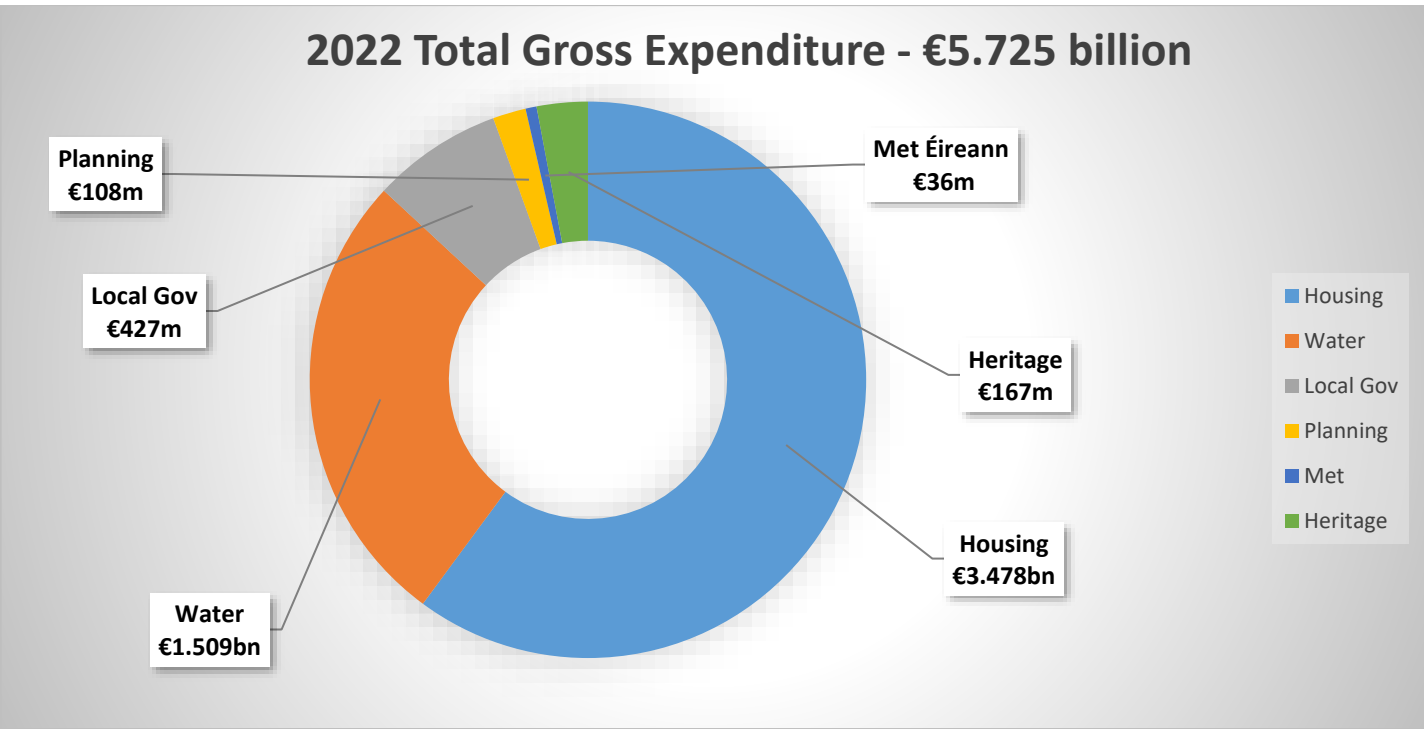


Figure 1 2022 Total Gross Expenditure

The Exchequer funding element (€5.633 billion) comprised €2.748 billion in current expenditure and €2.884 billion in capital expenditure (including €275.8 million capital carryover).

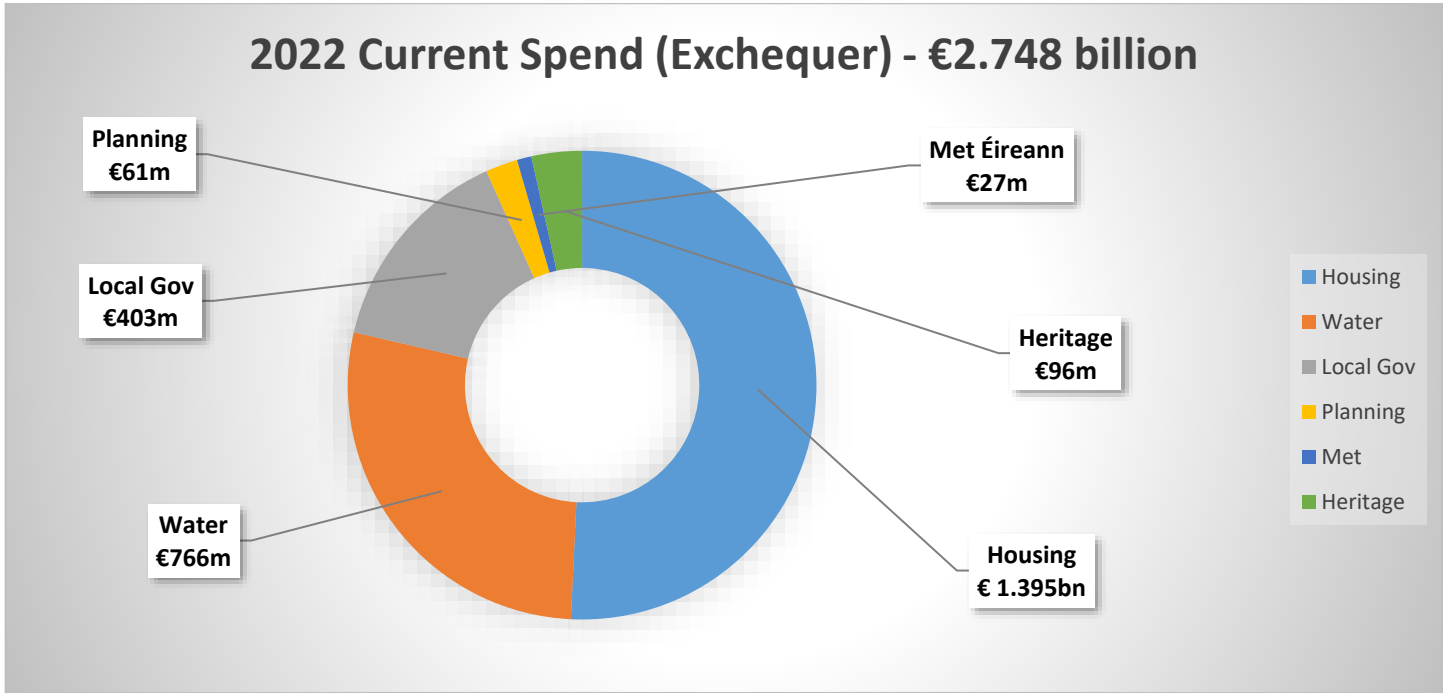


Figure 2 2022 Current Spend (Exchequer)

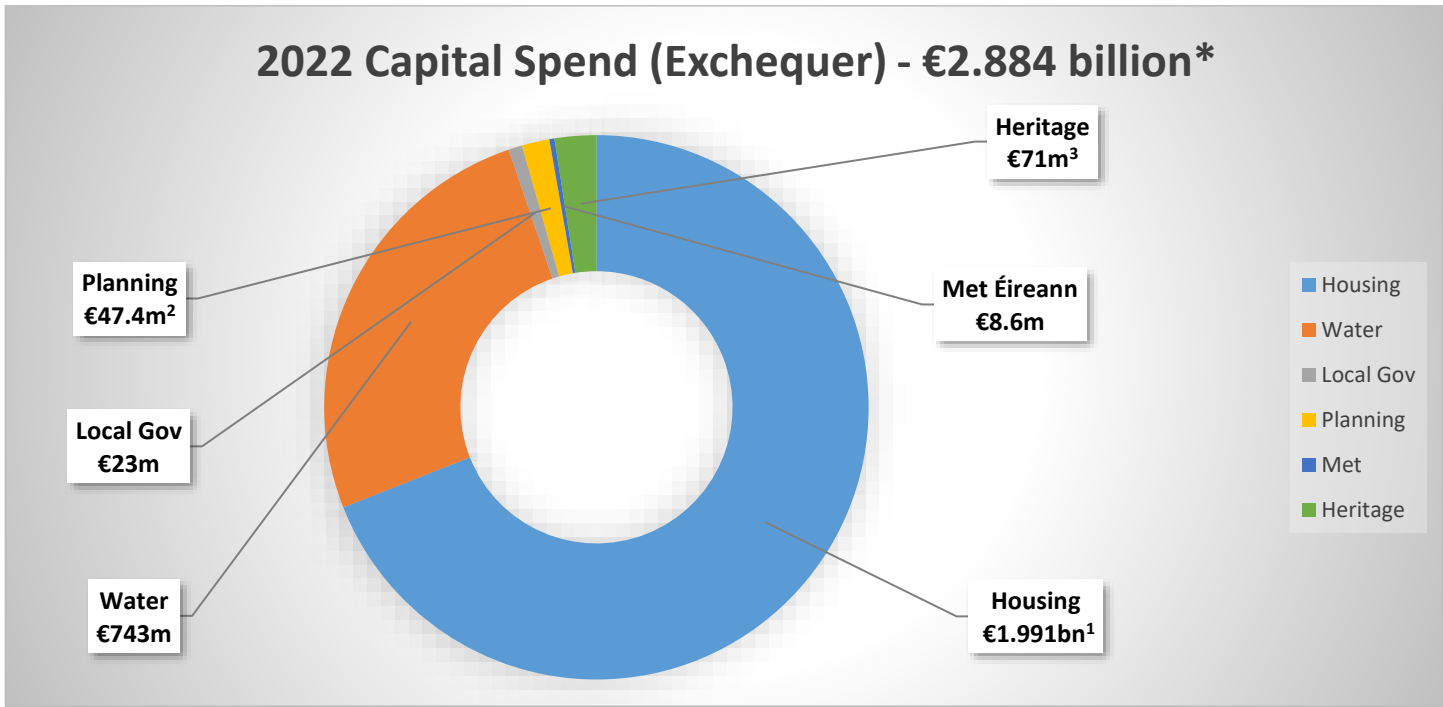


Figure 3 Capital Spend (Exchequer)

Total expenditure of €843 million (which comprises of €387.5 million income from the department's Vote and the remainder from LPT yield was managed through the Local Government Fund in 2022; primarily for the payment of annual LPT allocations (€524 million), to cover the cumulative impact of the national pay agreements on the sector (€210 million), and to recoup the costs of the COVID-19 Commercial Rates Waiver for quarter 1 2022 (€62 million).

* Includes €275.8 million Capital Carryover from 2021

¹ Includes €247.3 million Capital Carryover

² Includes €25 million Capital Carryover

³ Includes €3.5 million Capital Carryover

Strategic Goals

These strategic goals are taken from the department's Statement of Strategy and further information on the objectives, actions, outcomes and indicators can be found in this document.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



Key Achievements 2022:

- 26,957 commencement notices
- 34,177 dwelling units granted planning permission
- 29,851 new dwelling completions on a target of 24,600
- the highest annual output of social homes in decades and the highest level of delivery of new-build housing since 1975
- 10,263 social homes delivered
- 2,307 vacant social housing units brought back to productive use
- 2,114 families supported to remain in their homes through the Mortgage To Rent scheme by year end 2022
- Funding of around €242m provided to local authorities in Exchequer funding for provision of homeless services in 2022
- 120 Stage 2 applications were approved by Donegal and Mayo under the current Defective Concrete Blocks (DCB) grant scheme
- In 2022 the Voids Programme supported the remediation of 2,307 units in total with €28.9 million recouped to the local authority sector

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

Objective 1: Lead the Development of the Housing for All Strategy and Action Plan

In 2022, this department continued to escalate delivery and demonstrated continued leadership of the [Housing for All Strategy and Action Plan](#). A number of key actions and deliverables are noted and the following section outlines some of the key achievements in this space.

In 2022, the first full year of affordable housing provision in the state, over 1,750 affordable homes were delivered through the [Cost Rental Scheme](#), the [First Home Scheme](#) and the [Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme](#).

Other affordable purchase initiatives included the [First Home Scheme](#), the [Local Authority Home Loan](#), and the extension of the [Help to Buy Scheme](#).

[Cost Rental](#) accommodation, a new form of state-backed secure, long-term rental tenure through which rents are aimed at a minimum of 25% below open market rates, continued to be rolled out.

The government increased the funding available through the Affordable Housing Fund and the Cost Rental Equity Loan to make cost rental homes available at prices that are affordable.

The [Youth Homelessness Strategy](#) was published in November 2022, with the aim of helping young people aged 18 – 24 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The [National Housing Strategy for Disabled People](#) was published, with the aim of delivering housing and related supports for disabled people.

In accordance with action 24.2 of [Housing for All](#), work progressed on Project Díon, a new ICT system for the enhanced management and reporting of housing programmes operated by the department. Project Díon will improve data management and reporting and ensure better information flows between the department, local authorities and other key stakeholders involved in housing delivery including real-time data access.

A temporary ban on evictions was in place over the winter months. During this period, government used the time to increase housing supply for those most in need.

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

In the last quarter of 2022:

- Approximately 6,000 new social homes were delivered, including almost 5,000 new build social housing homes;
- 1,532 local authority homes were refurbished under the voids programme and restored to use;
- Prior to and during the period of the moratorium local authorities opened some 500 additional homeless emergency beds and 170 cold weather beds
- New affordable homes for purchase and cost rental by local authorities, Approved Housing Bodies, the Land Development Agency and the First Home Scheme were delivered and a pipeline of delivery for the coming years is established and strengthening

On 7 March 2023, additional measures were announced to increase the supply of social homes to coincide with the phasing out of the winter eviction ban are being taken to put in place additional accommodation to prevent homelessness including:

- An increase in the number of social housing acquisitions target to at least 1,500 in 2023 with a further expansion of the target as required

- An additional 1,000 homes through targeted leasing initiatives in 2023 and 2024
- The amendment of the Capital Advance Leasing Facility used by Approved Housing Bodies to assist them in their efforts in delivering social homes
- Giving tenants the ‘First Right of Refusal’ to buy their homes, by requiring a landlord selling a property to first offer it to the tenant on an independent valuation basis for sale
- Expanding the “First Home scheme” to support tenants to purchase under the “First Right of Refusal”
- Enhancing the availability of the Local Authority Home Loan to tenants utilising the “First Right of Refusal”
- A ‘cost rental’ model for tenants at risk of homelessness but not on social housing supports to enable them to continue to rent their home

In conjunction with colleagues in the Department of Rural and Community Development, a new [Town Centre First](#) policy was launched in February 2022 to address the decline in the health of towns across Ireland and support measures to regenerate and revitalise them.

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

A new [Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant](#) has been established, with 765 applications in 2022.

Additionally, changes to the [Fair Deal Scheme](#) have been implemented to remove disincentives to renting or selling vacant property.

A new [Croí Cónaithe \(Cities\) Fund](#) was established to address the financial gap between the construction cost and market price for apartments. The fund is designed to deliver 5,000 apartments in our city centres.

The [Land Development Agency](#) launched their [Project Tosaigh Scheme](#) aimed at accelerating delivery of homes on sites with full planning permission which would not otherwise be developed due to financing or other constraints.

Part 9 of the [Land Development Agency Act 2021](#) was commenced in December 2022. This legislative change places an affordable housing delivery requirement for the construction of homes on relevant public lands.

A [Ready to Build Scheme](#) funded through the [Croí Cónaithe \(Towns\) Fund](#) was introduced in September 2022.

A new [Construction Technology Centre](#) was established and policies were developed to promote the widespread adoption of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC).

Additional investment was made available to increase the availability of apprenticeships and training. The Apprenticeship Action Plan sets a target of 10,000 apprentice registrations per annum by 2025. As of the end of December 2022, there were a total of 5,628 registrations across all construction and construction-related apprenticeship programmes. The total across all apprenticeships was 8,286.

The Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme and the Employer Grant Scheme continues to ensure that apprenticeship plays a key part in supporting economic recovery.

Craft apprentice registrations have experienced a marked increase in interest over the past 4 years. Craft registrations are up 20% (+1,028) from 2019.

Together with partners, we are taking a number of measures to increase the number of skilled construction workers. These include four potential domestic sources of construction skills:

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

- Universities and technological universities;
- The apprenticeship system;
- The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS);
- An extensive range of relatively short vocational training courses.

In 2022, the CAO website included information on apprenticeship options for the first time, with a link to www.apprenticeship.ie.

Construction sector recruitment initiatives were launched to spearhead activation and recruitment, including the new '[Future Building](#)' initiative.

On 2 November 2022, government published its first annual review of [Housing for All](#) actions. The review sets out how the government is responding to current housing challenges and ensures focus remains on delivery.

Objective 2: Support the delivery of 50,000 social homes with an emphasis on new builds

101 homes were delivered in formerly vacant properties under the [Repair and Leasing Scheme](#) in 2022. An expansion to the scheme targeting conversions of former commercial, institutional or unfinished properties was granted approval in June 2022 on a pilot basis.

In accordance with the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) (EPBD) and [Climate Action Building Regulations](#), new regulations were introduced to provide for installation of EV charging infrastructure in certain dwellings with parking spaces within their curtilage or adjacent.

New regulations were also introduced to facilitate the rollout of district heating.

Objective 3: To provide social housing reform and a robust evidence base for housing policy

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

The department strives to evolve so that evidence based housing policy becomes embedded. The following paragraphs give a flavour of some of the progression in key areas.

The department continued to liaise with local authorities on the rollout of [Choice Based Letting](#) (CBL) nationally, including a survey of local authority progress. By October 2022, seventeen local authorities were operating a CBL system, while others were running pilot schemes to inform a wider roll-out of CBL in their respective areas in 2022 and 2023.

In December 2022, government agreed to increase the baseline income thresholds for social housing eligibility by €5,000 for all local authorities, with effect from 1 January 2023.

In February 2022, administrative and legislative changes in respect of the [Tenant \(Incremental\) Purchase Scheme](#) which had been approved by government in December 2021 came into effect. Key changes include:

- Reducing the minimum reckonable annual income required to qualify under the scheme from €15,000 to €12,500, enabling 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 was revised from one to ten years.

Objective 4: To support the adequate supply of and supports for rental accommodation while ensuring equity and fairness for landlords and tenants

2022 was a challenging year, given the demand for rental accommodation and the additional pressures felt in the market due to geo-political influences. That said the department has some notable achievements, as recorded below.

8,634 [Housing Assistance Payments \(HAP\)](#) tenancies were set up in 2022. From 11 July 2022, HAP discretion rates were increased from 20% to 35% and for new tenancies. Additionally, the couple's rate can now be extended to single person households.

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

There were 1,041 transfers from the [Rent Supplement Scheme](#) to the [Rental Accommodation Scheme](#), for a total of 16,653 active RAS tenancies.

432 [Mortgage to Rent](#) cases were completed in 2022, with 534 cases being actively progressed at year end 2022.

The [Fair Deal Scheme](#) has been reformed to remove disincentives for the sale and rent of vacant properties.

Part 11 of the [Regulation of Providers of Building Works and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022](#) amends the Residential Tenancies Acts and provides for:

- an increase to the notice periods for the termination of certain tenancies
- a requirement for landlords to serve a copy of any notice of termination on the [Residential Tenancies Board \(RTB\)](#)
- to remove the requirement on a tenant to provide their contact details to their landlord as a condition for a re-letting offer to be made, where certain circumstances arise

The [Residential Tenancies \(Deferment of Termination Dates of Certain Tenancies\) Act 2022](#) made emergency provisions for the following:

- to defer the termination dates of certain tenancies that fall, or would fall, during the period from 30 October 2022 to 31 March 2023, in order to mitigate the risk that persons whose tenancies would otherwise be terminated during that period would be unable to obtain alternative accommodation
- for the deferral of the giving of effect to certain notices of termination where they have been served by a landlord on or before 29 October 2022 and specify a termination date that falls during the 'winter emergency period'.

The [Residential Tenancies Board \(RTB\)](#) received €11 million funding for its operational costs in 2022.

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

Objective 5: Provide Policy and Funding Framework to Address Homelessness

At the end of 2022, the total number of individuals being supported in homeless emergency accommodation was 11,632.

This was the highest number of individuals recorded in emergency accommodation to date, and represented a year on year increase of 2,718 (30.5%) individuals.

There was a total of 5,478 exits and preventions from homelessness achieved in 2022, a 4.6% increase on the 5,234 exits and preventions achieved in 2021.

Effective measures are in place to manage regional authority expenditure programmes.

One of the top priorities of the [National Homeless Action Committee \(NHAC\)](#) was the development of a new [Youth Homelessness Strategy](#), launched on 9 November 2022. The first such strategy in two decades, it sets out 27 distinct actions to prevent young people entering homelessness, to improve the experiences of young people

in emergency accommodation and to assist young people to exit homelessness.

The [Housing First National Implementation Plan](#) created 240 tenancies in 2022 against a target of 282 with any shortfall to be carried forward as part of the overall five year target.

The department continued to support the objective to provide more suitable emergency accommodation for families experiencing homelessness. By the end of 2022 there were 36 family hubs operating providing almost 870 units of accommodation.

The [Dublin Region Homeless Executive](#), increased capacity by over 500 beds.

The department worked throughout 2022 to improve the utility of the homelessness data it publishes. In an effort to better understand the demographics of those accessing emergency accommodation, the department began publishing citizenship data of adults within emergency accommodation.

In light of the current situation in relation to homelessness, the department undertook a review of the [Housing Act 1988](#) to ensure it reflects the current situation as expressed by local authorities and

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

homeless services. This review was completed in Q4 2022, and the subsequent policy position will be formulated into 2023.

Objective 6: Support the Delivery of High Quality Homes

In 2022, the department took notable steps that will ensure the delivery of high quality homes.

[Building Regulations \(Part M Amendment\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. No. 608 of 2022\)](#) were introduced requiring a changing places toilet to be included in certain buildings.

[The Report of the Working Group to Examine Defects in Housing](#) was published in July 2022.

The [Pyrite Remediation Scheme](#) continues to address the issue of significant damage caused by pyritic upheaval in the subfloors of private dwellings. By the end of 2022, €20m was spent in facilitating the remediation of 235 homes.

The [Remediation of Dwellings Damaged by the Use of Defective Concrete Blocks Act 2022](#) was signed into law by the President on the 23 July, 2022.

[A Report of the Market Surveillance of Construction Products produced from County Donegal Quarries](#) was published.

Objective 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

In 2022 a total of 1,948 units were retrofitted at a total cost of €54.1 million under the national Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme.

Under the [Midlands Retrofit Pilot Programme](#), 335 units were retrofitted with funding of €10 million recouped to local authorities to support this work.

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

Objective 8: Deliver Capital Programme for Traveller Accommodation

This particular area has had notable achievement in 2022, with 197 Traveller specific outputs being provided:

- 6 Halting Site New Units
- 7 Halting Site Major Refurbs
- 6 Group Housing New Units
- 13 Group Housing Major Refurbs
- 28 Emergency Replacement Mobiles
- 29 Acquisitions
- 22 COVID-19 Mobiles
- 86 Loans Funded Under the Caravan Loan Scheme

There was expenditure of Exchequer capital provision of €18 million as well as an additional €2.6m on Traveller-specific accommodation by local authorities. This is the third consecutive year for which full capital spend was achieved.

A nationwide pilot [Caravan Loan Scheme](#) was rolled out in July 2022 for a 6 month period to support the provision of Traveller-specific accommodation through local authorities to provide preferential loans to Travellers to purchase their own caravan/mobile home for use as their primary residence.

The Programme Board established to implement the recommendations of the [Expert Group report](#) continued its work to drive implementation of the recommendations. A work programme for 2022 was put in place covering 24 of the 32 recommendations.

Objective 9: To provide for development of effective policy and statutory regulation

The [Housing \(Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies\) Act 2019](#) was fully commenced in 2022.

[Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority \(AHBRA\)](#) became fully operational, regulating all Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) on the register. The registration for AHBs opened, the monitoring

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

programme for all AHBs and a pilot assessment programme for a number of AHBs was implemented.

The [Regulations of Providers of Building Works and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022](#) was enacted in July. It provides for the establishment of a statutory registration body for the Construction Industry Register Ireland (CIRI).

Objective 10: Continue the delivery of Local Authority Mortgage Lending and maintain oversight of local authority lending policy

A reformed and expanded [Local Authority Home Loan](#) was introduced in January 2022. Eligibility for the scheme expanded to include single persons in counties Dublin, Cork, Galway, Kildare, Meath, Wicklow and Louth. A 'Fresh Start Principle' allows persons who no longer own a home, as a result of relationship break-up or insolvency/bankruptcy, to be eligible for the scheme.

Objective 11: Support Affordable Home Ownership and Rental

Along with other achievements listed under the previous objectives, and underpinned by legislative updates, the following paragraphs demonstrates action in the area of affordable home ownership and rental.

287 homes were delivered in 2022 with subvention from the Affordable Housing Fund.

As of 31 December 2022, the [First Home Scheme](#) had received 1,004 completed applications and approved 750 of these.

Enhanced funding of up to €150,000 per home was made available from the Affordable Housing Fund in 2022 based on location and tenure type.

Ten [Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund \(LIHAF\)](#) funded projects were completed in 2022.

Based on data provided by local authorities, by the end of 2022:

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

- a total of 1,745 units were completed, of which 223 were cost-reduced units
- the overall total housing delivery under the LIHAF scheme was 5,383 units, which includes 1,728 cost reduced units

Strategic Goal B

**To provide a framework for the sustainable management of water resources from
source to sea**



Key Achievements 2022:

- Commencement of the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022
- Commencement of the Water Environment (Abstractions and Associated Impoundments) Act 2022
- 4,258 connections completed to water infrastructure associated with 25,347 housing units
- 4,473 connection offers issued in 2022, associated with 36,989 housing units
- 99.7% compliance with the microbiological and chemical standards for drinking water
- €33.2m was provided in operational supports to Group Water Schemes benefiting over 96,500 households
- Improvements to more than 2,100 private wells funded, to the value of more than €7 million

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

Objective 1: Protect, enhance and restore water quality and water resource

Publication of four sets of amending regulations in 2022, ensured that the majority of transposition of matters arising from the [Water Framework Directive \(2000/60/EC\)](#) have been addressed.

The [Water Environment \(Abstractions and Associated Impoundments\) Act 2022](#) provides a suitable set of controls on significant water abstractions and impoundments, as required under Article 11 of the [Water Framework Directive \(2000/60/EC\)](#).

In conjunction with an expert group of relevant stakeholders, work progressed on the development of regulations to transpose the [Recast Drinking Water Directive \(2020/2184/EU\)](#).

Resolution of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive case continued with 19 of the 28 areas cited in the judgment resolved to date.

Work continued, in conjunction with Uisce Éireann, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the relevant local authorities, 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 21 public water supplies and in 9 private group water schemes.

6 Uisce Éireann schemes and 9 private group water scheme projects remain to be resolved.

The [Fifth Nitrates Action Programme](#) and the [Good Agricultural Practice Regulations 2022](#), as amended including the Commission's Implementing Decision on the nitrates derogation were published.

The EPA's Bathing Water Quality Report 2021 (2022) identified 148 bathing waters across Ireland, with 97% (144) of these meeting or exceeding the minimum required standard of 'sufficient', and 91% (134) classified as either 'excellent' or 'good'.

A public consultation on the [third River Basin Management Plan](#), to cover the period up to 2027, was completed. [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 6: Clean Water and Sanitation](#), and its targets, have been integrated into the measures and the governance arrangements for the proposed River Basin Management Plan.

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

Objective 2: Structure water and waste water services around Ireland's needs, the centrality of customers, the prioritisation of public health and environmental protection

The EPA's 2022 reporting shows that:

- In regard to drinking water, 58 water supplies serving a population of 481,309 have outstanding actions required by Uisce Éireann before their removal from the [Drinking Water Remedial Action List](#).
- Compliance with the microbiological and chemical standards for drinking water remains high at [greater than 99.7%](#), indicating the water in our public water supplies is safe to drink
- 95% of [Private Group Water Schemes](#) (schemes supplying their own water) are in compliance with E.coli standards and 93% compliant with Trihalomethanes standards.
- Monitored Small Private Supplies (businesses supplying their own water), are 95% compliant with E.coli standards, and 97% compliant with Trihalomethanes standards.

The recast Drinking Water Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I.

No. 99 of 2023) requiring all water supplies supplying greater than 10 m3/day will have Drinking Water Safety Plans building on initiatives by both Uisce Éireann and the National Federation of Group Water Schemes.

The department is funding a [National Federation of Group Water Schemes Pilot Project](#) to enable rural communities to combat climate change, improve energy efficiency and enhance biodiversity in community-owned water supplies, including energy audits and practical adaptation measures.

Objective 3: Implement water sector reform

The [Water Services \(Amendment\) Act 2022](#) was enacted and commenced.

[Uisce Éireann](#) has been retained in public ownership as a national, standalone, regulated utility.

In June 2022, the Workplace Relations Commission published a '[Framework for the future delivery of water services](#)', following negotiations between union and management representatives. The framework enables [Uisce Éireann](#) to work in conjunction with local authorities and current water services staff to complete the

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

integration of public water services into its own organisational structure, as envisaged in the government's [Water Sector Transformation Policy Paper](#).

Further to the department's commitment to invest in drinking and waste water infrastructure, by the end of 2022 [Uisce Éireann](#) had delivered:

- 9 wastewater treatment plants (new and upgraded)
- 6 water treatment plants (new and upgraded)
- 315 km of water network (new and rehabilitated)

Some €1.415 billion was provided in Exchequer funding to [Uisce Éireann](#), to support a significant programme of investment in the state's water infrastructure to ensure a sustainable, high quality supply of water for homes and businesses across Ireland.

- €717m related to capital investment
- €698m related to current expenditure
- 4,473 connection offers issued in 2022, associated with 36,989 housing units.
- 4,258 connections completed to water infrastructure associated with 25,347 housing units.
- Three Ministerial Orders were made;

- The first two transferred 163 water services asset properties from local authorities to [Uisce Éireann](#).
- The third Ministerial Order transferred the underground water infrastructure in 1,024 estates.

In total, 24 Ministerial Orders have been made, from the establishment of [Uisce Éireann](#) in 2014 up to the end of 2022, with some 3,378 asset properties having now transferred to [Uisce Éireann](#).

The focus to date has been on the transfer of larger assets, resulting in assets equivalent to 77% of water supply capacity and 85% of wastewater treatment capacity being transferred to [Uisce Éireann](#) by end 2022.

The EPA's 2022 report on [Urban Waste Water Treatment](#), an indicator of work to be done in water sector reform, showed that in 2021, waste water treatment at 12 of Ireland's 174 large urban areas failed to meet European Union standards set to protect the environment. The 12 areas that failed the standards in 2021 generated almost half (49%) of the total waste water collected in all 174 large urban areas.

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

Objective 4: Reform of the Rural Water Sector

Engagement with stakeholders through the Rural Water Working Group was ongoing throughout 2022, with progress made in identifying and agreeing the main issues and possible options in relation to the future governance of the sector.

An independent consultant's report, commissioned to identify key issues, priorities and future options for the Rural Water Sector was completed with critical analysis of the report begun.

The [A8 advanced funding measure](#) under the next [Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme](#), was launched:

- Providing funding for improved waste water collection and treatment of villages and settlements without access to public waste water services
- Workshop held to advise local authorities of the qualifying criteria for the funding and assist them with the application process
- Applications for funding from local authorities for specific projects across the country were received in September 2022
- Rural Water Unit completed an initial assessment of each application received

- Applications and supporting documentation collated and provided to a dedicated independent expert panel
- Independent expert panel met in December 2022 to critically analyse the specifics of each application received

Continued progress and improvement to consumers in the Rural Water Sector resulted in:

- €33.2m provided in operational supports to group water schemes benefiting over 96,500 households
- Improvements to more than 2,100 private wells funded in 2022, to the value of more than €7 million
- Provision of capital funding grants to improve [Domestic Waste Water Treatment System Grants \(DWWTS\)](#) (septic tanks), benefiting over 200 households at a cost of €0.9 million

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

Objective 5: Support the progressive resolution, of legacy stand-alone Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure in housing estates

Work continued on the remainder of 26 individual projects previously allocated €3.35m. By the end of 2022, work on two estates was completed and the issues resolved.

Objective 6: Ensure that Ireland has a clean, healthy, diverse and sustainably used maritime area while implementing relevant parts of UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number (14)

- Ireland's [Marine Strategy Framework Directive \(MSFD\) Environmental Targets](#), part of the [National Marine Planning Framework \(NMPF\)](#), ensure that human activity is at sustainable levels and that the ecosystem is protected.
- A 12 week [public consultation](#) on the revision of Ireland's MSFD Programme of Measures (POMs) was completed.
- The publication of Ireland's (Article 17) update to Ireland's [Marine Strategy Part 3: POMs \(Article 13\)](#) took place under

the MSFD, ensuring compliance with the timelines of the Directive.

- The [independent analysis](#) of the public consultation on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) was completed and published.
- The development of comprehensive legislation was advanced for the identification, designation, and management of MPAs.
- The expert advisory group on MPAs was reconvened and an Irish Seas sensitivity analysis to identify areas of interest for MPAs in the Irish Sea was initiated.
- The [General Scheme of Marine Protected Areas Bill 2022](#) was approved and published to provide for the designation and effective management of MPAs.

Other work under this objective includes:

Completion of the ObSERVE extensive summer programme of aerial surveys for seabirds, cetaceans and other fauna.

Commencement of the extensive winter programme of 2022-23 surveys.

Conclusion of Ireland's chairmanship of the Oil Spill Prevention Administration and Response ((OSPAR) Commission (2018-2022).

There was national involvement at the [OSPAR Commission](#) contributing to the delivery by OSPAR of several major initiatives for

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

the protection of the North-East Atlantic Ocean environment, including:

- The [North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030](#)
- The [OSPAR 2nd Regional Action Plan to tackle marine litter \(RAP ML 2\) in the North-East Atlantic](#)

The department jointly represented Ireland (along with the Department of Foreign Affairs) at the UN negotiations to develop a new legally binding instrument to protect marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, and along with the National Parks & Wildlife Service, at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity conference of parties (COP-15).

There was a successful submission of the first stage concept note for LIFE Strategic Integrated Project funding (€24m total) which resulted in an invitation to submit a full proposal.

Objective 7: Ensure transboundary co-operation on marine environment issues

Ireland's delegation to the [OSPAR Commission](#) was expanded in order to further facilitate transboundary cooperation and coordination with other EU member states and third countries for the protection of the marine environment.

Engagement and involvement in cross-border marine projects and research council at advisory group and steering group levels continued, 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

Key Achievements 2022:

- The [Electoral Reform Act 2022](#) enacted on 25 July 2022
- The [Local Government \(Maternity Protection and Other Measures for Members of Local Authorities\) Act 2022](#) enacted in December 2022
- Local Property Tax (LPT) allocations amounting to €524 million paid to local authorities
- €209.6 million paid to local authorities in 2022 to cover the cumulative effects of the pay costs arising from the national pay agreements and the unwinding of Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (FEMPI)
- €61.7 million was paid in respect of the COVID-19 commercial rates waiver for Q1 2022

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

Objective 1: Develop policy and systems to ensure effective electoral management and reform

The [Electoral Reform Act 2022](#) which delivers the legislative underpinning for a range of significant electoral reforms set out in the “[Programme for Government – Our Shared Future](#)”, was enacted on 25 July 2022.

The Act provides for:

- the establishment of an independent electoral commission
- the modernisation of electoral registration processes
- improved voting facilities for persons with mental health difficulties
- the regulation of online political advertising
- the regulatory framework to protect the integrity of elections and referendums against the dissemination or publication of online disinformation, online misinformation and manipulative or inauthentic behaviour online
- revisions to electoral law to ensure that electoral events can proceed effectively if public health restrictions are in place due to a pandemic, including COVID-19

- amendments to the [Electoral Act 1997](#) to strengthen the provisions of that Act to ensure that donations and resources from non-citizens outside the state are not being utilised to influence our elections and political processes
- amendments to the Electoral Acts to provide for same-day island voting at electoral events
- and clarification that political parties can apply for a lottery license in support of their fund-raising activities

Two Commencement Orders to commence certain provisions of the Act were made in 2022:

- S.I. No. 512 of 2022
- S.I. No. 720 of 2022

Upgrades of the relevant local authority electoral registration systems were implemented including:

- The introduction of rolling (continuously updated) registration
- Simplification of forms and the overall registration process
- Provision of an online option to register or update details
- The use of Personal Public Service Numbers (PPSNs) in the registration process.

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

A national awareness campaign was rolled out and the upgraded check the register website enabled people to register, confirm or update their own details quickly and easily online.

Work to develop a national electoral registration system, based on the [Voter.ie](#) system currently used in Dublin continued.

A Seanad by-election was held in 2022.

Arrangements are continuously reviewed to ensure readiness for any poll.

Objective 2: To support and advance government policy to enhance and develop local government

The [Local Government \(Maternity Protection and Other Measures for Members of Local Authorities\) Act 2022](#) was enacted in December 2022, providing for:

- Maternity leave for local authority elected members for the first time
- Permits a person to temporarily take the place of a member of a local authority who is absent on maternity leave or due to illness or other good faith reason.

In regard to Local Property Tax (LPT):

- Allocations amounting to €524m paid to local authorities in 2022
- The LPT allocation mechanism was changed to allow for 100% of the estimated yield to be retained locally within the local authority area where it is collected, to come into effect in 2023.
- The baseline review was commenced and is expected to conclude in time for the 2024 LPT allocations.
- LPT regulations in respect of the local variation decision process were amended allowing elected members to set a local adjustment factor for a period beyond one year.

Local authorities were further supported financially in 2022 by the following:

- €209.6m was paid to local authorities in 2022 to cover the cumulative effects of the pay costs arising from the national pay agreements and the unwinding of the [Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest \(FEMPI\)](#)
- €61.7m was paid in respect of the COVID-19 commercial rates waiver for Q1 2022; providing support for ratepayers and financial certainty for local authorities;

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

- €23.3m was paid to local authorities in respect of the conclusion of valuation appeals by a number of global utility networks, in recognition of current funding pressures and obligation on local authorities to refund commercial rates to those companies.

Extensive consultations on the development of guidelines for the operation of municipal districts were held with elected members and executives. A circular on best practice guidelines for the operation of municipal districts issued to local authorities in November 2022.

Engagement with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel in relation to the drafting of a bill providing for a directly elected mayor of Limerick and providing for mayoral plebiscites in local authorities continued in 2022.



Strategic Goal D

To ensure that planning and building in our regions, communities and maritime area contributes deliver sustainable and balanced development

Key Achievements 2022:

- The successful roll out of [ePlanning](#) to 12 local authorities
- 17 new development plans came into effect, accounting for over half of all local authorities in the country
- The launch of the [Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant](#) on 14 July
- 29 full time Vacant Homes Officers were in place by December
- Approval received for the updated [General Scheme for the Land Value Sharing and Urban Development Zones Bill](#)
- The review and consolidation of the [Planning and Development Act 2000](#)
- Approval received for the draft [Planning and Development Bill 2022](#) in December
- The launch of the [Ready to Build Scheme](#) on 21 September
- 253 notifications were uploaded to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Portal
- 10 EIA transboundary consultations were managed
- 58 statutory applications received for consent for projects and activities on the foreshore
- The [Town Centre First Policy](#) was launched in February
- New [Development Plan Guidelines](#) were published in July
- A new [Residential Zoned Land Tax](#) announced in November

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

Objective 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

Statutory '[Development Plans Guidelines](#)' to support quality and consistency in the preparation of development plans by planning authorities were published in July 2022.

Significant progress was made by local authorities in 2022 to align their respective city and county development plans with the [National Planning Framework](#). In total of 17 new development plans came into effect, for over half of all local authorities in the country.

12 Ministerial Directions were issued under Section 31 of the [Planning and Development Act 2000](#). Of these, 11 directions concerned newly adopted development plans, while one related to a variation of an existing development plan.

A working group was established to review opportunities for Transport Orientated Development (TOD) in major urban centres, with focus on opportunities in Dublin in 2022.

Consultations were held with city local authorities and regional assemblies in relation to the establishment of City Delivery Boards. The findings were reported to [Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board](#).

A Housing Delivery Tracker was created to digitally monitor the progress of housing completions against the Housing Supply Targets (HSTs) in statutory city and county development plans.

The [Town Centre First Policy](#) was published in February 2022 to support town regeneration, with national and local resources and implementation measures established.

In order to promote the activation of suitable land for housing, the department published guidelines to assist planning authorities in identifying land within the scope of the [Residential Zoned Land Tax](#). All 31 local authorities drafted maps identifying such land by 1 November 2022.

Government approval was received for the updated [General Scheme for the Land Value Sharing and Urban Development Zones Bill](#) in December 2022 to progress proposals to permit the state to secure a share of the uplift inland values resulting from zoning decisions, in order to provide the infrastructure necessary to enable housing and related development to take place and to benefit communities.

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

In line with the objectives of the [National Planning Framework](#) and the [National Development Plan](#), the [Urban Regeneration and Development Fund \(URDF\)](#) is currently providing part-funding to applicant-led projects, enabling more compact and sustainable development within the existing built-up footprints of our cities and large towns. URDF projects are now active in every local authority area in the country.

A Vacant Homes Unit was established within the department in April 2022. The unit has a key role in driving and supporting delivery on the government commitments under Housing for All - Pathway Four designed to tackle vacancy and ensure the more efficient use of our existing housing stock.

Under [Housing for All](#):

- Action 19.6 - ensures that the Vacant Homes Officer (VHO) position in each local authority is fulltime
- At year-end 2022, 29 VHOs were on a full-time basis, with the remaining local authorities in the process of transitioning to full time
- A Vacant Homes Officers Network was established to facilitate collective engagement, peer support and to

disseminate information, promote best practice and consistency of approach

From January 2022, the contribution made to support the role of Vacant Homes Officer (VHO) was increased from €50,000 to €60,000 per annum, subject to transitioning the changeover of the VHO to a fulltime position

Under Action 19.11 of Housing for All, the [Croí Cónaithe](#) initiative was established, focussing on towns and villages. Some initiatives under Croí Cónaithe include:

- Introduction of the [Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant](#) for homeowners who wish to turn a formerly vacant house or building into their principal private residence across towns and villages
- The grant was extended to eligible vacant properties in cities and rural areas on 15 November 2022 to ensure existing housing stock is being used to the fullest extent possible
- The [Ready to Build Scheme](#) allows local authorities to make serviced sites available in towns and villages, at a discount on the market value, to individual purchasers for the building of their principal private residence.

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

Objective 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 encouraging investment

In 2022 the department launched [MarinePlan.ie](https://marineplan.ie), the first online interactive digital tool for marine spatial planning in Ireland. This tool includes:

- An interactive map portal enabling the public and sectoral interests to explore the maritime area
- The relevant policies for each marine sector or activity in the [National Marine Planning Framework \(NMPF\)](#)
- Sets out the roles of individual government departments and agencies in the maritime area
- A hub area includes information and story maps relevant to the department and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)

Work is ongoing to implement the [Maritime Area Planning Act \(MAP Act\) 2021](#) including via secondary legislation such as the following:

Commencements:

- S.I. 394/2022 for Part 1 including setting out the nearshore area and role of coastal planning authorities; enabling work on Ministerial guidelines and policy directives. This S.I. also commences a number of key schedules underpinning marine consenting
- S.I. 599/2022 & S.I. 112/2022 for Part 3, supporting establishment of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
- S.I. 112/2022 enabling Part 4 concerning Maritime Area Consents as well as Part 6 on enforcement
- S.I. 488/2022 on Part 8 amending the Planning and Development Act 2000

Amendments:

- SI 447/2022 accelerating the timeline for introduction of new offshore wind consenting procedures
- SI 487/2022 enabling flexibility in the marine consenting system in line with terrestrial planning processes

The opportunity for sub-national planning is now enabled under provisions for Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs) under the [MAP Act](#). Work is ongoing to create the DMAP process, which will

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

enable public bodies to be designated as competent authorities including coastal planning authorities to propose marine planning initiatives and engage communities in development of marine plans.

In support of sub-national MSP in Ireland, the department is working with Mayo County Council and University College cork as part of the cross-European [REGINA-MSP](#) project, which is a two-year initiative funded by the [European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund \(EMFAF\)](#). The project aims to improve the participation of regions, local authorities and stakeholders in the development and implementation of maritime spatial planning, identifying how regional actors can contribute to improving efficiency and achieving European Green Deal goals.

The project will provide an opportunity for Ireland to learn from sub-national MSP practice in other European countries, informing future DMAP processes.

Objective 3: Enable the Land Development Agency (LDA), An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) to deliver on their mandates

The [Land Development Agency](#) (LDA):

- On 31 March 2022, a Commencement Order and associated Dissolution Order provided for the dissolution of the interim LDA and the transfer of all functions and staff to the new LDA Designated Activity Company (DAC)
- All remaining provisions of the LDA Act were commenced on 1 January 2023 by way of the [Land Development Agency Act 2021 \(Remaining Provisions\) \(Commencement\) Order 2022](#), S.I. 724/22, which was signed by the Minister on 21 December 2022.
- These provisions included Part 9 of the Act which places an affordable housing delivery requirement on relevant public land
- The [Register of Relevant Lands](#) went live on 01 December 2022.

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

[An Bord Pleanála:](#)

- The [Action Plan for An Bord Pleanála](#), including measures to address conflicts of interests, changes to the board appointments system, strengthening the senior management team and the provision of further resources to An Bord Pleanála, was published on 4 October 2022
- [Planning and Development and Foreshore \(Amendment\) Act 2022](#) was signed into law, providing for:
 - the appointment of a chairperson of An Bord Pleanála for an interim period, while a permanent chairperson is recruited through open competition
 - increasing the maximum number of board members from 10 to 15
 - recruitment of board members through an open process
 - other matters relating to addressing board vacancies and the board's case load in light of its new marine functions.

In November 2022, following an updated assessment by the Board of resourcing issues likely to emerge as a result of planning applications for the [National Development Plan](#) and other

infrastructure projects, the Board's new marine functions, as well as a number of senior positions approved under the [Action Plan for An Bord Pleanála](#), and in accordance with the 2022-2023 Workforce Plan, the Board sought sanction for 34 additional posts. The department provided sanction for these additional 34 posts in December 2022.

The [Office of the Planning Regulator \(OPR\)](#):

- In addition to its on-going statutory planning reviews, the OPR completed a 2-phase review of An Bord Pleanála on request from the Minister.

Objective 4: Operation of the foreshore consenting regime in respect of developments and activities on the foreshore

58 new statutory applications for consent were received in 2022 relating to a range of projects and activities on the foreshore including application for various one day events and coastal protection works, Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) site investigations, strategic infrastructure projects, interconnectivity sub-

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

sea and interconnector electricity cables, local authority developments, port developments and dredging.

A total of 36 applications (including applications received in previous years) were concluded in 2022.

A judicial review case taken against the Minister in relation to foreshore decisions was concluded.

Implementation of the new maritime area regulatory regime, underpinned by the [Maritime Area Planning Act 2021](#), continued to be supported. Preparation for the transition of the foreshore regime continued to be progressed.

Objective 5: Lead the development, implementation and guidance for EU Directives, UN obligations and planning legislation relevant to the planning system

- 253 notifications uploaded to the [Environmental Impact Assessment \(EIA\) Portal](#)
- 10 EIA transboundary consultations managed
- 6 statutory instruments introduced

- 3 new Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) environmental planning litigation cases managed
- 1 Act introduced
- 1 guidance document published

Working in partnership with the Department of Justice, and the Courts Service, government approval was received in November 2022 to establish a new division of the High Court dealing with planning and environmental issues.

To support urban renewal and to increase housing supply, 2018 planning regulations exempting vacant commercial premises from requiring planning permission for change of use to residential purposes were extended to 2025. The scope of the regulations was also expanded to include public houses.

Further to an action in the [Climate Action Plan 2021](#), the [Planning and Development Act 2000 \(Exempted Development\) \(No.3\) Regulations 2022](#) and [Planning and Development \(Solar Safeguarding Zone\) Regulations 2022](#) came into effect on 5 October 2022. The regulations:

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

- Provide planning exemptions for the installation of solar panels on the rooftops of houses and certain non-domestic buildings
- Aim to increase Ireland's generation of solar energy, combating climate change and supporting the [EU's Solar Rooftops Initiative](#)
- Simplifying permitting procedures for rooftop solar development

By year end 2022, 12 local authorities were using ePlanning, an online portal enabling members of the public to lodge planning applications, submissions and observations to planning authorities. ePlanning will continue to rollout nationwide in 2023.

Objective 6: Carry out a comprehensive review and consolidation of Planning and Development Act

The department worked closely with the Attorney General and his working group on the Review and Consolidation of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Stakeholder engagement on the review was facilitated through the [Planning Advisory Forum](#), Inter-Departmental Group, Legislation Standing Group and other key stakeholders and relevant departments.

The department engaged with Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage to scrutinise the key emerging themes for the review.

Cabinet approval of the Draft Planning and Development Bill 2022 was secured on 13 December 2022. A short outline to the [Draft Planning and Development Bill 2022](#) was published to highlight key policy changes.

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



Key Achievements 2022:

- 118 million visitors to www.met.ie and the Met Éireann app
- 9 million visitors to www.met.ie and the Met Éireann app during storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin on 16, 18 & 20 of February
- The department contributed to EUMETNET Cross Border Convective Forecast service to EUROCONTROL
- A new 'Climate Services Division' established within Met Éireann
- 36 catchment hydrological models developed and calibrated
- 2 new automatic climate stations installed (Doo Lough and Bangor Erris)
- 2 additional automatic climate monitoring stations (surface temperature, relative humidity, rainfall) rolled out
- The United Weather Service High Performance Computer (HPC) installed on site in the Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO) Reykjavik

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

Objective 1: Expand and develop the delivery of authoritative impact-based weather and climate services

In pursuit of the objective above Met Éireann took the following actions in 2022:

- Contributed to [EUMETNET](#) Cross Border Convective Forecast service to [EUROCONTROL](#) as part of 22 state collaborative aeronautical service delivery
- Developed high resolution numerical weather prediction for Irish domain
- Pre-operational suite deployed as part of UWC-West collaboration
- Commenced involvement in [Destination Earth On-Demand Extremes](#) project
- A new 'Climate Services Division' established within Met Éireann to better meet the increasing needs of Ireland's climate sensitive decision-makers
- Met Éireann's [TRANSLATE](#) project produced the first standardised climate projections for Ireland
- The first station-based climate indices for Ireland were produced and are available on [Met Éireann's website](#)
- The first Coupled Model Intercomparison Project 6 (CMIP6) ensemble of climate projections for Ireland was produced in partnership with the Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC)
- Met Éireann joined the HCLIM (HARMONIE Climate) consortium as a full member and is contributing to the development of its climate model
- A 4-year project to improve EC-Earth's representation of the North Atlantic climate system was awarded to NUIG and ICHEC and started in Q3 2022
- Government approved the establishment of a National Framework for Climate Services by Met Éireann. This national coordination initiative is helping to standardise national

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

climate projections and climate information to support Ireland's adaptation sector

- Operationalised the provision on standardised climate change indices. Available [online](#) (updates monthly)
- Delivered the 'Climate Change Science' module to the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme over multiple training events
- Expanded impact-based forecast services
- Expanded and upgraded [Met Éireann's website](#) and app
- Weather services and warnings delivered via multimedia platforms
- Increased engagement with information provided via Met Éireann's media platforms and in particular enhanced engagement with the public through provision of climate updates via Met Éireann's climate [Twitter](#) account

Objective 2: Establish a new national flood forecasting system

To support the establishment of a new national flood forecasting system:

- 36 catchment hydrological models were developed and calibrated with all available data
- The Tidal and Storm Surge Forecast model has been integrated into the [European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts](#) (ECMWF) High-Performance Computing Centre and produces forecasts for tides and surge values around the coast two times each day. This is now part of Met Éireann's operational suite of forecast models
- The 36 catchment hydrological models were successfully integrated into the Irish Flood Early Warning System (FEWS). Forecasts for river flows are now produced
- The process has commenced in the development of the implementation plan for Stage 2 of the NFFWS (National Flood Forecast and Warning Service)

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

Objective 3: Maintain and develop expertise and skills and meteorological infrastructure required to deliver on Met Éireann's strategic goals

In 2022, Aviation Services retained accreditation to ISO 9001:2015 standard. There was significant expansion of aviation data to Irish Air Corps which emanated from enhanced consultation processes and the establishment of Air Corps Met Éireann (ACMÉ). The technical implementation of the [Aviation Modernisation and Automation Project](#) (AMAP) was completed. Aviation Services successfully underwent compliance inspection by [European Aviation Safety Agency](#) (EASA).

Two new automatic climate stations were installed (Doo Lough and Bangor Erris).

Business continuity and geo-resilience of Met Éireann synoptic stations continued through upgrade of data connectivity systems.

There was improved support to national transboundary pollution monitoring under [World Meteorologist Organization's \(WMO\) Global Atmosphere Watch \(GAW\)](#) programme and [European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme \(EMEP\)](#) through upgrade of analytical

laboratory capability and the introduction of near real-time NO_x, SO₂ sensors at Valentia Observatory.

There was improved climate monitoring through installation of additional Surface Radiation Budget instrumentation (Surface ERB longwave) ECV at Valentia Observatory. An additional two automatic climate monitoring stations (surface temperature, relative humidity, and rainfall) were rolled out in 2022.

Enhanced monitoring and analysis of the national tropospheric ozone programme through the upgrade of the Brewer spectrophotometer system took place at Valentia Observatory.

There was ongoing successful engagement with citizen scientists through the expansion of the [WOW.ie](#) platform, the Weather Observations Website of Met Éireann to include 27 additional Fingal County Council schools. In addition, the [WMO Integrated Global Observing System \(WIGOS\)](#) station identifier schema was approved and governance committee was also approved.

In relation to the multiannual Weather Radar Project:

- Site investigation for new sites and planning for Shannon and Dublin radar progressed.

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

- The modernisation of observation data storage and quality control systems commenced in 2022.
- There was improved security and resilience of aviation meteorological infrastructure at 5 airports through the introduction of Layer3 networking of the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) system.

There was enhanced business continuity management and geo-resilience of operational ICT systems through the ICT migration and managed service (IMaMS) project which upgraded and updated the Met Éireann ICT infrastructure across two data centres (Glasnevin and St John's Road).

The United Weather Service High Performance Computer (HPC) has been installed on site in the Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO) Reykjavik ready for acceptance tests and commissioning in 2023.

Objective 4: Further development of Met Éireann Research Programme

Some live research projects and studies underway in 2022 under the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Programme include:

- A review of Met Éireann's environmental monitoring programme, laboratory processes and operations
- Development of atmosphere-ocean-wave coupling models for the energy sector
- Understanding of the effects of climate change on sea levels using atmosphere-ocean-wave coupling models

**A complete list of live research can be found in Appendix 5*

New research call topics and the Met Éireann Research Professorship Call were prepared.

Support was provided to national policies and participation in governance structure on research and innovation.

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



Key Achievements 2022:

- National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) established as an executive agency
- 602 structures and monuments assisted under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF), Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Community Monuments Fund (CMF)
- 109 biodiversity projects funded through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund
- 67 Community Biodiversity Action Plans submitted
- 1,804 projects were organised for National Heritage Week
- 55,500 pupils in 998 schools participated in visits under the 2022 Heritage in Schools Scheme
- 118 farm plans agreed under the NPWS Farm Plan Scheme
- Peatlands habitat restoration measures completed on an area of more than 300 hectares

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

Objective 1: To promote North-South co-operation, particularly in the context of Waterways Ireland

Four meetings of the Monitoring Committee were held in 2022.

The channel maintenance programme continued across the waterways.

Construction of Phase 2 of the Ulster Canal commenced in August 2022, with completion expected Q4 2023.

Work on the 46 km Barrow Blueway between Lowtown and Athy continued in 2022, with completion expected in Q2 2023.

2 new Shared Island Biodiversity projects awarded:

- €10m for peatland restoration across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland
- €1m for an all-island biosecurity Invasive Alien Species initiative

Objective 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

The [Irish White-tailed Sea Eagle Reintroduction Programme](#) continued the re-establishment of a population of the once extinct species. 16 young eagles were released at three sites across Munster, including a release by the Taoiseach in Tarbert, Co Kerry.

10 NPWS Irish Wildlife Manuals relating to the conservation management of habitats and species in Ireland published.

Under the Community Foundation Ireland Environment and Nature Fund (of which the department is a co-funder) communities are connected with ecologists to draw up Community Biodiversity Action Plans.

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

- 67 Community Biodiversity Action Plans were submitted in 2022, with 47 new plans being sanctioned
- 23 proposals for implementing actions within existing plans were approved following evaluation
- Total money distributed between these successful 70 applications equated to €318,391

The [National Parks and Wildlife Service \(NPWS\) Farm Plan Scheme](#) agreed 118 farm plans in 2022.

A new LIFE Nature and Biodiversity project launched in 2022.

Public consultation for the [4th National Biodiversity Action Plan](#) launched with

- 200 survey responses
- 111 written submissions received

In regard to our built heritage:

- 602 structures/monuments were assisted under the [Historic Structures Fund](#) (HSF), [Built Heritage Investment Scheme](#) (BHIS) and [Community Monuments Fund](#) (CMF).
- 39,247 days' employment were created under the HSF, BHIS and CMF.
- 73 owners were assisted with a grant to cover the cost of a conservation architect carrying out a condition survey of their building under a pilot conservation advice scheme.
- 317 Ministerial Recommendations issued in respect of additions to local authority Records of Protected Structures (RPS).
- Two garden surveys and three building surveys completed by the [National Inventory of Architectural Heritage](#).

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

Objective 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

Efforts to increase community awareness include:

- An estimated 55,500 pupils in 998 schools participated in visits under the 2022 [Heritage in Schools Scheme](#).
- 2,535 visits were delivered of which 570 were fully funded with no cost to the school in support of initiatives such as National Biodiversity Week; Science Week; Life IP Wild Atlantic Nature; Green Schools and Forest School.
- A summer programme was also provided offering additional supports to disadvantaged communities over the summer months.

- 1,804 projects were organised for National Heritage Week in 2022, an increase of almost 80% on 2021.
- In total, there were 920 event organisers in 2022.

All 31 local authorities currently have a Heritage Officer appointed. Funding has been announced to support 10 new local authority Biodiversity Officer positions.

Two workshops were held to assist local authorities in their operation of the [Historic Structures Fund](#) (HSF), [Built Heritage Investment Scheme](#) (BHIS) and [Community Monuments Fund](#) (CMF).

New guidance documents were created for local authorities and applicants to the HSF and BHIS following an independent review of the schemes.

Peatlands habitat restoration measures were completed on an area of more than 300 hectares across six protected raised bog sites in 2022 through NPWS programmes, with other preparatory works undertaken on other sites within the raised bog [Special Areas of Conservation](#) and [Natural Heritage Area](#) network.

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

Total grant funding of €235k was awarded to 18 groups under the [Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme](#) in 2022.

2,586 applicants received annual payments in 2022 under the [Raised Bog Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme](#).

109 biodiversity projects funded across 29 local authorities through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund

The 2nd National Biodiversity Conference was held with 692 delegates in attendance and a keynote speech delivered by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin, T.D.

The department convened a [Young Person's and Children's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss](#) in 2022. This assembly, held in parallel to the main Citizen's Assembly, was developed and held to ensure the views of children and young people are considered in the policy approach to tackling biodiversity loss.

Objective 4: To ensure effective development and implementation of appropriate policies, legislation, actions to comply with EU, national and international heritage obligations

A review of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) was completed in February 2022. In May 2022, government approved the resulting three-year [Strategic Action Plan for the National Parks and Wildlife Service](#), establishing NPWS as an executive agency, and including €55 million additional investment in the organisation over the period of the action plan.

In pursuit of the protection of our natural heritage:

- 31 successful prosecution cases in 2022 under wildlife legislation
- A further 29 cases forwarded to the Chief State Solicitors Office (CSSO) for consideration.

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

- One ongoing legal case at present with Site Protection Unit of the NPWS
- SI 235/2022 [Flora \(Protection\) Order 2022](#) published
- SI 485 of 2022 [Wildlife Act 1973 \(Protection of Wild Animals\) Regulations 2022](#) published

An additional Reasoned Opinion was addressed to Ireland in relation to protected peatlands.

The [Irish Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\) Management Authority](#) participated in the 19th Conference of the Parties to CITES in November 2022 and contributed to positive outcomes for the EU and its member states.

Detailed site-specific conservation objectives were published for 9 [Special Areas of Conservation \(SACs\)](#) and 10 Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

One Ministerial Direction was issued in 2022 from the Site Protection Unit.

[A New World Heritage Tentative List for Ireland was announced in 2022.](#)

Government approval to publish [Historic and Archaeological Heritage Bill](#) was received on 08 December 2022.

The National Advisory Committee on the Protection of Cultural Property During Armed Conflict was established to help advance the implementation of the 1957 Hague Convention and its Second Protocol of 1999.

[Heritage Ireland 2030](#) was approved by government in February 2022 and the inaugural Heritage Ireland 2030 Summit was held in October 2022. Tracking of implemented actions is ongoing.

[Places for People, the National Policy on Architecture](#) was published in May 2022, containing four architecture and built environment objectives: sustainability, quality, leadership and culture, and three

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

action categories: value and empower, set a quality agenda and generate knowledge.

All Year 1 actions under the Vernacular Strategy progressed in 2022.

19 Enhanced Decommissioning Restoration and Rehabilitation (EDRRS) Scheme rehab bog plans were approved by NPWS in its role as regulator of EDRRS (2021 – 2026).

€12.7 million of vouched expenses approved by NPWS in its role as EDRRS regulator.

Additional Material Updates

Humanitarian Supports

February 2022, marked the start of the war in Ukraine. The government acknowledging the scale and scope of the potential implications for the state arising from the conflict in Ukraine agreed that a coordinated, whole-of-government response would be essential in response. Throughout 2022, this department was part of the government established dedicated cabinet committee, chaired by An Taoiseach, to oversee and coordinate the Ukraine humanitarian response, including accommodation and supports for persons arriving in Ireland from the conflict in Ukraine.

The department is supporting the whole-of-government effort on Ukraine across 3 strands;

1. Emergency Refurbishment (Ukraine) Project ;
2. “Offer a Home” call; and
3. The identification of sites for rapid build homes.

61 refurbishment projects are currently progressing through the Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine project which will provide approximately 2,800 bed spaces upon completion.

The launch of the unoccupied homes call “Offer a Home” took place on 24 November 2022. This programme is being managed by the [Local Government Management Agency](#) (LGMA) and overseen by this department.

The department assisted the [Office of Public Works \(OPW\)](#) with identifying sites that might be suitable to assist them to develop a programme of rapid build homes needed to accommodate [Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection \(BOTPs\)](#), on behalf of the [Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth \(DCEDIY\)](#). The department notified the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) of a number of such sites that may be suitable for rapid build houses intended to cater for 2,800 individuals.

Climate Action

The department is working hard to achieve our shared goals of achieving net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of this decade. This department has a broad remit over the built environment, planning, the marine environment and national biodiversity policy, as well as Met Éireann's role in climate science and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

An outline of key actions delivered in 2022 includes:

- Implemented the Marine Planning Area Act to provide the biggest reform of marine governance in the history of the state – including the establishment of the Marine Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).
- A dedicated MARA Establishment Unit was established in 2022 in the department to lead on the critical work to enable timely establishment of the agency. The unit is directing a detailed implementation plan along three work streams, corporate governance, corporate development and operational development and is working to have MARA formally established as early as possible in H1 2023.
- Amendment to building regulations to require Electrical Vehicles (EV) recharging infrastructure in dwellings with parking spaces within the building boundary.
- Provided that building regulations shall permit minimum requirements for renewable energy to be fulfilled through efficient district heating and cooling.
- Continuation of the national [Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme](#) for local authority housing to retrofit 2,283 dwellings.
- Produced updated climate data maps to assist building standards.
- Funding awarded through all 31 local authorities under the Community Monuments Fund, the Historic Structures Fund and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme to build the resilience of heritage structures and sites to climate change.

- New planning permission exemptions for rooftop solar panels on homes and other buildings.
- Memoranda of Understanding on Cultural Heritage and Climate Action finalised with Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Delivered the 2022 National Parks and Wildlife Service/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Peatlands Restoration Programme for the raised bog habitat within the Special Area of Conservation and Natural Heritage Area networks. Restoration works were carried out across 6 raised bog Special Areas of Conservation and Natural Heritage Areas in 2022
- Funding awarded to all 31 local authorities who applied for funding from the Local Authority Biodiversity Action Fund for biodiversity related projects.
- New Directorates for Wildlife Enforcement & Nature Protection and Conservations Measures established as part of NPWS's Strategic Action Plan for the renewal of NPWS.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and its 169 targets is a significant and ambitious policy agenda that concerns all government departments.



The department has responsibility for leading implementation on the following targets:

- SDG 1 '*No Poverty*' Target 1.5.
- SDG 6 '*Clean Water and Sanitation*' Targets 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 & 6.6
- SDG 11 '*Sustainable Cities and Communities*' Targets 11.1, 11.3, 11.7, 11.a & 11.b
- SDG 14 '*Life below Water*' Targets 14.1, 14.2, 14.3 & 14.5
- SDG 15 '*Life on Land*' Targets 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a & 15.c

The department also has input into the following targets where another department leads:

- SDG 2 '*Zero Hunger*' Targets 2.4 & 2.5
- SDG 9 '*Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure*' Targets 9.1 & 9.4
- SDG 11 '*Sustainable Cities and Communities*' Target 11.4
- SDG 12 '*Responsible Consumption and Production*' Target 12.8
- SDG 13 '*Climate Action*' Targets 13.1 & 13.2
- SDG 14 '*Life below Water*' Targets 14.4, 14.6 & 14.c
- SDG 15 '*Life on Land*' Targets 15.1, 15.2 & 15.b

All departments share responsibility for SDG 17 'Partnership for the Goals'.

In pursuing our mission and goals in 2022, the department contributed to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) alongside partners in central and local government.

The department is represented on the Senior Officials Group and the Inter-Departmental Working Group for SDGs, reporting on progress to the [Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications](#), which oversees the whole-of-government initiative on the SDGs.

The department has committed to increase SDG awareness in the department, to embed the SDG framework into our work to achieve greater policy coherence for Sustainable Development and to incorporate the principal of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms.



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 2022, 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**

The Access Team continued to implement its three year Action Plan. The plan, with nine priority areas with 53 specific actions continued to improve accessibility and universal design in the department and to provide reasonable accommodation of people with disabilities for employees and visitors to the department.

- **Electoral Reform Bill**

The [Electoral Reform Act 2022](#), amongst other items, modernised the electoral registration process to deliver greater accessibility and inclusiveness. Electors can now apply to be included or update their details at any time through a simplified process either online or on paper. In addition, the Act provides new options for an anonymous registration process for people whose safety may be at risk if their name and address were to be published and also provides specific arrangements for people with no fixed abode who wish to be entered onto the electoral register. Postal voting provisions relating to illness were amended to include those, who because of mental health difficulties, are not able to attend polling stations to vote. The Act also provides for pre-registration for 16 and 17 year-olds, promoting early engagement in that cohort; they are then automatically added to the electoral register when they turn 18.

- **Housing Strategy for Disabled People**

The [National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027](#), jointly published by this department, the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, sets out the government's vision for the cooperation and collaboration of government departments, state agencies and others in delivering housing and related supports for disabled people.

- **Housing Options for our Ageing Population and Housing for All**

A third and final report of the [Housing Options for our Ageing Population Interdepartmental/Agency Implementation Group](#) was published in June 2022. [Housing for All](#) incorporates a policy objective to increase and improve housing

options for older people to facilitate ageing in place with dignity and independence and builds on and takes forward the ongoing actions in Housing Options for Our Ageing Population policy statement from 2019.

- **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 and ensures that regular updates on progress are published on the department's website.

Corporate & Organisational Information

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 2022 there had been significant implementation and progress on of all the strategy's Goals, Actions and Strategy Enablers.

In 2022, following the successful rollout of the department's 'Blended Working Policy', 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 six 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 completely virtual programme with approximately 42 participants.

COVID-19

In 2022, the department has continued to contribute to the delivery of public service reform objectives, including with respect to the evolution of the workplace and ways of working, post-pandemic. In 2022, following the successful rollout of the department's ['Blended Working Policy'](#), 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.

ICT Apprenticeships in the Public Sector

In late 2022 the department joined with other government departments and agencies in the first National Information Communications Technology (ICT) Apprenticeship Scheme. This scheme follows on from the 2020/21 pilot scheme and is based on the

review of that pilot. The department has been assigned three ICT Apprentices – one each from the software development, cybersecurity and network engineering streams.

Data Strategy ‘Foundations Sprint 2021-24’

The department’s first ever Data Strategy has been published on the department’s website. The mission of our data strategy is to revolutionise how we, our partners and citizens access the trusted data we need, when we need it, and to use data to make better smarter decisions today, to build a more sustainable future tomorrow.

Data Insights

A Data Insights platform has been established in accordance with the department’s Data Strategy goals. The Insights platform will provide a single source for the key metrics surrounding housing in Ireland by:

- Identifying and collecting relevant data from multiple sources
- Presenting the most up to date housing-delivery figures across the four Housing For All pathways via a suite of dynamic dashboards

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. Whilst responsibility for maintaining sound systems of internal control rests with management, IAU provides independent, objective assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the department’s governance, risk management, and control frameworks. Its mission further includes enhancing and protecting organisational value by providing risk-based and objective assurances, advisory advices, and professional insights, with a view to promoting the achievement of the department’s organisational objectives.

IAU’s authority, role and responsibilities are conferred by its Charter, which was refreshed in 2022. The Unit further operates in accordance with the [Internal Audit](#)

[Standards for Government Departments and Offices \(2018\)](#), as issued by the [Department of Public Expenditure and Reform](#) (DPER), together and the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors' International Professional Practices Framework, (IPPF).

In 2022, IAU completed seven internal audit assignments, which included a mix of assurance and advisory engagements, and two further assignments were at draft report stage at year end. In addition, seven follow-up audit review reports and two reports outlining the status of on-going audit recommendations were also prepared during the course of the year.

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 department's Audit Committee comprises of five members, three of which are external, including the Committee Chair. Commensurate with the terms of its own charter, the Audit Committee held four meetings in 2022

Civil Service Financial Management Shared Services

The department is undertaking an upgrade and stabilisation project of its Oracle Financial Management System software and hardware, for which a successful procurement and tendering process occurred in 2022. It is intended that completion of the upgrade will occur in 2023; with a go live date scheduled for Q4 2023. By launching an upgrade of the Oracle Financial Management System, the department ensures readiness for transition to Financial Management Shared Services (FMSS) in due course.

Linkages will be established between the upgraded Oracle FMS and Project Díon, which will deliver a new ICT system for the management and reporting of housing programmes operated by the department.

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.

| 2022 Green Public Procurement (GPP) | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Priority Sector | Contracts Issued Over €25,000 | Value Of GPP Contracts Issued Over €25,000 | Spend 2022 |
| ICT Services | 4 | €2,610,655.73 (VAT inclusive) €2,122,484.33 (VAT exclusive) | €291,846.70 (VAT inclusive) €237,273.73 (VAT exclusive) |
| Transport | 1 | €616,107.00 (VAT inclusive) €500,900.00 (VAT exclusive) | €616,107.00 (VAT inclusive) €500,900.00 (VAT exclusive) |
| Cleaning Products & Services | - | €0.00 (VAT inclusive) €0.00 (VAT exclusive) | €279,937.42 (VAT inclusive) €241,827.45 (VAT exclusive) |
| Energy | - | €0.00 (VAT inclusive) €0.00 (VAT exclusive) | €310,509.31 (VAT inclusive) €269,546.13 (VAT exclusive) |
| Totals | | €3,226,762.73 (VAT inclusive) €2,623,384.33 (VAT exclusive) | €1,498,400.43 (VAT inclusive) €1,249,547.31 (VAT exclusive) |

Appendices

Appendix 1: Legislative Activity In 2022

Relevant Acts of the Oireachtas

[Electoral Reform Act 2022](#)

[Local Government \(Maternity Protection and Other Measures for Members of Local Authorities\) Act 2022](#)

[Planning and Development and Foreshore \(Amendment\) Act 2022](#)

[Planning and Development, Maritime and Valuation \(Amendment\) Act 2022](#)

[Regulation of Providers of Building Works and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022](#)

[Remediation of Dwellings Damaged By the Use of Defective Concrete Blocks Act 2022](#)

[Residential Tenancies \(Deferment of Termination Dates of Certain Tenancies\) Act 2022](#)

[Tailte Éireann Act 2022](#)

[Water Environment \(Abstractions and Associated Impoundments\) Act 2022](#)

[Water Services \(Amendment\) Act 2022](#)

Statutory Instruments

| S.I. No | Description |
|----------|--|
| 22/2022 | <u>Water Services Act 2017 (Commencement) Order 2022</u> |
| 58/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Lisnageeragh Bog And Ballinastack Turlough Special Area Of Conservation 000296) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 59/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Camderry Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002347) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 60/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog Special Area Of Conservation 000382) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 61/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Moanveanlagh Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002351) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 62/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Mouds Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002331) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 63/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Arroo Mountain Special Area Of Conservation 001403) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 64/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Lough Gall Bog Special Area Of Conservation 000522) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 65/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Clew Bay Complex Special Area Of Conservation 001482) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 66/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Ballysadare Bay Special Area Of Conservation 000622) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 67/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Buckroney-Brittias Dunes And Fen Special Area Of Conservation 000729) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 75/2022 | <u>Planning And Development Act (Exempted Development) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 83/2022 | <u>Land Development Agency Superannuation Scheme 2022</u> |
| 85/2022 | <u>Dwellings Damaged By The Use Of Defective Concrete Blocks In Construction (Remediation) (Financial Assistance) (Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 112/2022 | <u>Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (Commencement Of Certain Provisions) Order 2022</u> |
| 113/2022 | <u>European Union (Good Agricultural Practice For Protection Of Waters) Regulations 2022</u> |

| | |
|----------|---|
| 114/2022 | <u>Building Control (Prescribed Qualifications) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 123/2022 | <u>Housing And Sustainable Communities Agency (Amendment) Order</u> |
| 143/2022 | <u>Land Development Agency Act 2021 (Commencement) Order 2022</u> |
| 144/2022 | <u>Land Development Agency Act 2021 (Dissolution Day) Order 2022</u> |
| 151/2022 | <u>Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (Number 2) Regulations 2022 -</u> |
| 152/2022 | <u>Residential Tenancies Act 2004 (Prescribed Form) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 157/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Boleybrack Mountain Special Area Of Conservation 002032) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 158/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Cloonmoylan Bog Special Area Of Conservation 000248) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 159/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Croaghaun/Slievemore Special Area Of Conservation 001955) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 160/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Akeragh, Banna And Barrow Harbour Special Area Of Conservation 000332) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 161/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Slieve Bloom Mountains Special Area Of Conservation 000412) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 162/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Clonaslee Eskers And Derry Bog Special Area Of Conservation 000859) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 163/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Carlingford Mountain Special Area Of Conservation 000453) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 164/2022 | <u>Local Government Rates And Other Matters Act 2019 (Commencement) Order 2022</u> |
| 165/2022 | <u>Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2021 (Section 7) (Commencement) Order 2022</u> |
| 166/2022 | <u>European Union (Water Policy) (Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 167/2022 | <u>Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019 (Commencement) Order 2022</u> |
| 183/2022 | <u>Affordable Housing Regulations 2022</u> |
| 184/2022 | <u>Affordable Housing (No. 2) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 235/2022 | <u>Flora (Protection) Order 2022</u> |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 249/2022 | <u>Planning And Development (Street Furniture Fees) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 286/2022 | <u>European Union (Drinking Water) (Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 287/2022 | <u>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) (Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 288/2022 | <u>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) (Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 289/2022 | <u>Derelict Sites Act 1990 (URBAN AREAS) REGULATIONS 2022</u> |
| 306/2022 | <u>European Union (Planning And Development) (Displaced Persons From Ukraine Temporary Protection) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 307/2022 | <u>Housing (Regulation Of Approved Housing Bodies) Act 2019 (Commencement) Order 2022</u> |
| 341/2022 | <u>Residential Tenancies Act 2004 (Prescribed Form) (No.2) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 342/2022 | <u>Housing Assistance Payment (Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 358/2022 | <u>Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 384/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Lough Corrib Special Area Of Conservation 000297) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 385/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Slieve Bernagh Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002312) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 386/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Lough Nillan Bog (Carrickatlieve) Special Area Of Conservation 000165) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 387/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Castlemaine Harbour Special Area Of Conservation 000343) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 388/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Coolrain Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002332) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 393/2022 | <u>European Union (Good Agricultural Practice For Protection Of Waters) (Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 394/2022 | <u>Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (Commencement Of Certain Provisions) (No. 2) Order 2022</u> |
| 395/2022 | <u>Maritime Area Consent (Application Fee) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 408/2022 | <u>Affordable Housing Act 2021 (Commencement Of Section 6(2)(C)) Order 2022</u> |

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| 409/2022 | <u>Regulation Of Providers Of Building Works And Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 (Commencement) (Part 10) Order 2022</u> |
| 419/2022 | <u>Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 429/2022 | <u>Regulation Of Providers Of Building Works And Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 (Commencement) Order 2022</u> |
| 446/2022 | <u>Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 447/2022 | <u>Planning And Development, Maritime And Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022 (Commencement Of Certain Provisions) Order 2022</u> |
| 469/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands Special Area Of Conservation 000584) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 470/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Coole-Garryland Complex Special Area Of Conservation 000252) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 471/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Monivea Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002352) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 472/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Ben Bulbin, Gleniff And Glenade Complex Special Area Of Conservation 000623) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 473/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Clyard Kettle-Holes Special Area Of Conservation 000480) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 474/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Clara Bog Special Area Of Conservation 000572) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 485/2022 | <u>Wildlife Act 1976 (Protection Of Wild Animals) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 487/2022 | <u>Planning And Development, Maritime And Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022 (Commencement Of Certain Provisions)(No.2) Order 2022</u> |
| 488/2022 | <u>Maritime Area Planning Act (Commencement Of Certain Provisions)(No.3) Order 2022</u> |
| 492/2022 | <u>Planning And Development (Solar Safeguarding Zone) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 493/2022 | <u>Planning And Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 3) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 499/2022 | <u>Water Services (No. 2) Act (Property Vesting Day) (No. 2) Order 2022</u> |
| 512/2022 | <u>Electoral Reform Act 2022 (Commencement) Order 2022</u> |

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| 513/2022 | <u>European Union (Planning And Development, Maritime And Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022) (Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 519/2022 | <u>Housing (Domestic Lead Remediation Grant) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 523/2022 | <u>Planning And Development, Maritime And Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022 (Commencement Of Certain Provisions) (No. 3) Order 2022</u> |
| 534/2022 | <u>European Union (District Heating) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 535/2022 | <u>Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 550/2022 | <u>Planning And Development, Maritime And Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022 (Commencement Of Certain Provisions) (No. 4) Order 2022</u> |
| 558/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Horn Head And Rinclevan Special Area Of Conservation 000147) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 559/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Cloonee And Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood Special Area Of Conservation 001342) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 560/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Bunduff Lough And Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore Special Area Of Conservation 000625) Regulations 2022.</u> |
| 561/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Barrigone Special Area Of Conservation 000432) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 562/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Clooneen Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002348) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 563/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex Special Area Of Conservation 000470) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 565/2022 | <u>Planning And Development (Amendment)(No. 2) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 599/2022 | <u>Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (Commencement Of Certain Provisions) (No. 4) Order 2022</u> |
| 600/2022 | <u>Planning And Development, Maritime And Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022 (Commencement Of Certain Provisions) (No.5) Order 2022</u> |
| 605/2022 | <u>Planning And Development (Exempted Development) (No. 4) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 608/2022 | <u>Building Regulations (Part M Amendment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 615/2022 | <u>Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 647/2022 | <u>Planning And Development (Amendment)(No.3) Regulations 2022</u> |

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| 651/2022 | <u>Irish Water Defined Benefit Superannuation Scheme</u> |
| 654/2022 | <u>Dwellings Damaged By The Use Of Defective Concrete Blocks In Construction (Remediation) (Financial Assistance) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 664/2022 | <u>Planning And Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (Number 5) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 674/2022 | <u>Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (Property Vesting Day) (No. 3) Order 2022</u> |
| 678/2022 | <u>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022 (Commencement) Order 2022</u> |
| 682/2022 | <u>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022 (Appointed Day) Order 2022</u> |
| 683/2022 | <u>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022 (Dissolution Day) Order 2022</u> |
| 708/2022 | <u>European Union (Planning And Development Act 2000) (Environmental Impact & Habitats Assessment) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 716/2022 | <u>European Union (Good Agricultural Practice For Protection Of Waters) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 720/2022 | <u>Electoral Reform Act 2022 (Commencement) (No. 2) Order 2022</u> |
| 724/2022 | <u>Land Development Agency Act 2021 (Remaining Provisions) (Commencement) Order 2022</u> |
| 728/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Dunmuckrum Turloughs Special Area Of Conservation 002303) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 729/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Derrinlough (Cloonkeenleananode) Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002197) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 730/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Ballygar (Aghrane) Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002199) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 731/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Aughrim (Aghrane) Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002200) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 732/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Derragh Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002201) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 733/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Mount Jessop Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002202) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 734/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Girley (Drewstown) Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002203) Regulations 2022</u> |

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| 735/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Schoaboy (Sopwell) Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002206) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 736/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Arragh More (Derrybreen) Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002207) Regulations 2022</u> |
| 737/2022 | <u>European Union Habitats (Wooddown Bog Special Area Of Conservation 002205) Regulations 2022</u> |

Appendix 2: Planning Guidelines 2022

[Sustainable Urban Housing Design Standards for New Apartments - Guidelines for Planning Authorities](#)

Guidelines providing a further technical update in relation to 'Build-To-Rent' accommodation and to update some other references, where necessary.

[Development Plans - Guidelines for Planning Authorities](#)

Guidelines to ensure Development Plans take into account the forecasted amount of housing in an area and that sufficient new homes can be built in key areas of housing demand.

[Residential Zoned Land Tax - Guidelines for Planning Authorities](#)

Guidelines to assist planning authorities in meeting the statutory requirement to undertake and publish a draft, supplemental and final map(s) identifying lands zoned for residential purposes and mixed use purposes including residential uses, which are connected or able to be connected to the necessary services to support housing development.

[Strategic Environmental Assessment - Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities](#)

Guidelines providing advice on carrying out strategic environmental assessment in the land-use planning sector for those plans listed in [S.I. No. 436/2004](#)

[Revised guidelines for Temporary Accommodation in Existing Buildings for those fleeing the war in Ukraine](#)

Guidelines to assist building owners (public and private) to meet the agreed standard of temporary accommodation for use by those fleeing war in Ukraine.

[Guidelines for New Emergency Accommodation](#)

Guidelines to assist local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies when considering acquiring existing buildings for conversion for use as emergency accommodation.

[Loft Conversion Guidelines](#)

Guidelines on principal issues, including fire safety, that need to be addressed when converting an attic/loft roof space in an existing dwelling.

Appendix 3: Corporate Supports

| Freedom of Information | |
|--|-----------|
| Freedom of Information Requests Received | 365 |
| 2021 Freedom of Information Requests Carried Over | 22 |
| Granted Requests | 56 |
| Part-Granted Requests | 201 |
| Refused | 113 |
| Live at Year-End | 17 |
| Access to Information on the Environment | |
| Access to Information on the Environment Requests Received | 91 |
| 2021 Access to Information on the Environment Requests Carried Over | 6 |
| Granted Requests | 16 |
| Part-Granted Requests | 36 |
| Refused | 22 |
| Transferred | 2 |
| Withdrawn | 16 |
| Live at Year-End | 5 |
| Irish Language Commitments | |
| Reports, Social Media Posts, Press Releases, Public Consultation Pages & Policy Documents Translated | 826 |
| Prompt Payment | |
| Invoices paid within 15 calendar days | 86.18% |
| Invoices paid within 30 calendar days | 99.09% |
| Late Payment Value of All Invoiced Payments | 0.91% |
| Late Payment Interest Charges | €2,688.68 |
| Late Payment Compensation Costs | €7,460 |
| Quality Customer Service | |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Queries into QCS Mailbox | 1,133 |
| Queries Resolved in 15 Days | 89% |
| Staff Numbers | |
| Whole Time Equivalent posts on 01/01/2022 | 1365 |
| Staff Recruited | 316 |
| Staff Lost due to Transfers, Retirements, Resignations, Cessation of Contracts | 126 |
| Whole Time Equivalent posts by Year-End | 1560.94 |
| Performance Management & Development System (PMDS) | |
| PMDS Compliance | 90% |
| Learning and Development Statistics | |
| One Learning Courses | 2,850 |
| Other Course Applications | 624 |
| Conference Applications | 221 |
| Refund of Educational Fees Applications | 66 |
| Refund of Professional Membership Fees Applications | 96 |

Appendix 4: Oireachtas Supports

| Parliamentary Questions | 2022 |
|---|-------|
| Questions Received | 4,897 |
| Questions Answered ¹ | 4,219 |
| Type of Question Answered¹: | |
| Oral | 493 |
| Written | 3,726 |
| Topical Issues Debates | |
| | 200 |
| Commencement Matters | |
| | 123 |
| Representations and Invitations | |
| Representations ² | 4,940 |
| Invitations ³ | 1,696 |

1 The remainder of questions/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.

Appendix 5: Publications In 2022

The main publications produced by the department during 2022 are detailed below:

- [Housing for All Quarterly Progress Reports](#)
- [Social Housing Construction Projects Status Report Q3 2022](#)
- [Sand Dune Restoration within Raven Point Nature Reserve Special Area of Conservation \(LIFE Insular\)](#)
- [Retained Fire Services in Ireland - "A Review of Recruitment and Retention and the Future Sustainability of Service Delivery"](#)
- [Overview of the Rates Waiver Schemes in Local Authorities](#)
- [Data Strategy Foundations Sprint 2021 - 2024](#)
- [Advice to the Public on Ireland's Underwater Archaeological Heritage](#)
- [Housing for All Quarterly Statistics - Nov 2022](#)
- [Housing for All: Action Plan Update and Q3 2022 Progress Report](#)
- [Residential Zoned Land Tax: Timeline and process](#)
- [Residential Zoned Land Tax](#)
- [European Peatlands Initiative Exploratory Study Report](#)
- [Built Heritage Investment Review - 2022](#)
- [Solar Planning Exemptions](#)
- [Guidelines for Temporary Accommodation in Existing Buildings for those fleeing the war in Ukraine - Single Persons and Family type Accommodation](#)
- [Action Plan for An Bord Pleanála](#)
- [Tara Conservation Management Plan](#)
- [Guidelines for New Emergency Accommodation](#)
- [Social Housing Construction Projects Status Report Q2 2022](#)

- [Review of Income Eligibility for Social Housing Support](#)
- [Local Biodiversity Action Fund - Projects Funded, Sept 2022](#)
- [Ready to Build Scheme \(Serviced Sites for New Homes\)](#)
- [Home Ventilation](#)
- [Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2026](#)
- [Working Group to Examine Defects in Housing](#)
- [Clonburris Strategic Development Zone](#)
- [Third Cycle Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 - Consultation Report](#)
- [The Invasive Alien Species Aquatic Pathway Action Plans \(2022 – 2027\) have been published](#)
- [Croí Cónaithe \(Towns\) Fund Scheme](#)
- [Housing for All - Q2 2022 Progress Report](#)
- [Development Plans - Guidelines for Planning Authorities](#)
- [Social Housing Construction Projects Status Report Q1 2022](#)
- [Water Policy Advisory Committee \(WPAC\) Bulletin - December 2021](#)
- [Residential Zoned Land Tax: Guidelines for Planning Authorities](#)
- [Framework for future delivery of water services](#)
- [Nitrates Action Programme - Consultation Report on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Natura Impact Assessment](#)
- [Measures to Encourage Home Ownership](#)
- [Affordable Housing](#)
- [Housing Supply Clearing House Measure – Expressions of Interest \(EOI\) and Call for Proposals](#)
- [National Marine Planning Framework- Consultation Report](#)

- [Places for People - the National Policy on Architecture](#)
- [Croí Cónaithe \(Cities\) Scheme](#)
- [Housing Supply Coordination Task Force Return - Reports Q1- Q4 2021](#)
- [National Parks and Wildlife Service – Strategic Action Plan and Review](#)
- [Housing for All – Investment and Financing](#)
- [Housing for All - Innovation and Productivity](#)
- [Housing for All - Sectoral Capacity](#)
- [Housing for All - Available Supports](#)
- [Dublin Housing Delivery Group - Report No. 1 \(2021\)](#)
- [A Guide to the marketing and use of Aggregate Concrete Blocks to EN 771-3 in Ireland](#)
- [Housing for All – Statistics Dashboard](#)
- [Report of the Expert Group on the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme](#)
- [Planning Advisory Forum](#)
- [Housing for All - Q1 2022 Progress Report](#)
- [Loft Conversion Guidelines](#)
- [Independent Analysis and Report on Marine Protected Area \(MPA\) Public Consultation Submissions](#)
- [Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2021 – Key Findings](#)
- [Social Housing Construction Projects Status Report Q4 2021](#)
- [Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas – Best Practice Interim Guidance Document](#)
- [Fifth Nitrates Action Programme 2022-2025](#)
- [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\)](#)

- [Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities](#)
- [Code of Practice for Fire Safety Assessment of Premises and Buildings](#)
- [Governance and Reporting on the Housing for All Plan](#)
- [Terms of Reference for Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland \(SCSI\) Report on Construction Costs for the Defective Concrete Block Scheme](#)
- [Town Centre First Policy](#)
- [Housing for All Updates](#)
- [Housing for All - Q4 2021 Progress Report](#)
- [2021 Review of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme for Borrowers of Commercial Private Lending Institutions](#)
- [Review of Pre-Construction Processes for Social Housing Construction and Mixed Tenure Projects](#)
- [Design Manual for Quality Housing](#)
- [Review of the use of Peat Moss in Horticulture - Final Report of the Chairman of the Working Group](#)
- [National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027](#)
- [Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities](#)
- [Youth Homelessness Strategy](#)

Appendix 6: Irish Language Publications

- [Bonnráib Straitéise Sonraí 2021 – 2024](#)
- [Comhairle don Phobal maidir le hOidhreacht Seandálaíochta Faoi Uisce na hÉireann](#)
- [Amlíne agus Próiseas Cánach Talún Críosaithe Cónaithe](#)
- [Cáin ar Thalamh Chríosaithe Cónaithe](#)
- [Díolúintí Pleanála Gréine](#)
- [Plean Bainistíochta Caomhnaithe na Teamhrach](#)
- [Scéim Réidh le Tógáil \(Láithreáin Seirbhísithe le haghaidh Tithe Nua](#)
- [Aeráil Tí](#)
- [Meitheal chun Lochtanna sa Tithíocht a Scrúdú](#)
- [Crios Forbartha Straitéisí Chluain Buiríosa](#)
- [Foilsíodh Pleananna Gníomhaíochta maidir le Conair Uisceach do Speicis Choimhthíocha Ionracha \(2022 - 2027\)](#)
- [Ciste Chroí Cónaithe \(Bailte\)](#)
- [Tithíocht Inacmhainne](#)
- [An Creat Náisiúnta um Pleanáil Mhuirí](#)
- [Áiteanna do Dhaoine - an Beartas Náisiúnta um Ailtireacht](#)
- [Scéim Chroí Chónaithe \(Cathracha\)](#)
- [An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna agus Fiadhúlra – Plean Gníomhaíochta Straitéiseach & Athbhreithniú](#)
- [Tithíocht do Chách – Infheistíocht agus Maoiniú](#)
- [Tithíocht do Chách - Nuálaíocht agus Táirgiúlacht](#)
- [Tithíocht do Chách – Acmhainneacht Earnála](#)

- [Tithíocht do Chách -Tacaíochtaí atá ar Fáil](#)
- [Tithíocht do Chách - Deais Staitisticí](#)
- [An Cúigiú Clár Gníomhaíochta Nótráite 2022-2025](#)
- [Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta \(MST\)](#)
- [Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta: Treoirlínte do na Tionóil Réigiúnacha agus do na hÚdaráis Pleanála](#)
- [Cód Cleachtais chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar shábháilteacht dóiteáin in áitribh agus i bhfoirgnimh](#)
- [Rialachas agus Tuairisciú ar an bPlean Tithíocht do Chách](#)
- [An tEolas is déanaí maidir le Tithíocht do Chách](#)
- [Athbhreithniú 2021 ar An Scéim Morgáiste go Cíosle Haghaidh lasachtaithe Institiúidí lasachtaithe](#)
- [Lámhleabhar Dearadh do Thithíocht Ardchaighdeáin](#)
- [Athbhreithniú ar úsáid Caonach Móna sa Gairneoireacht - Tuarascáil Deiridh Chathaoirleach an Ghrúpa Oibre](#)
- [An Straitéis Tithíochta Náisiúnta do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas 2022 - 2027](#)
- [Straitéis do Dhaoine Óga gan Dídean](#)

Appendix 7: Met Éireann Research Initiated In 2022

Ongoing core research activities by Met Éireann include Numerical Weather Prediction research (e.g. through ACCORD), climate modelling (e.g. through EC-Earth), climate services, climate communications, coastal flood forecasting, coastal monitoring, fluvial (river) flooding, pluvial flooding capability developments, national climate monitoring capabilities, coordination of the Irish Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and continuing support of National Emergency Management.

A further list of live research currently underway at Met Éireann is set out in the table below:

| Title of live research | Estimated completion date |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Development of Atmosphere-Ocean-Wave Coupling Models for the Energy Sector | Q4 2022 |
| Understanding of the effects of climate change on sea levels using atmosphere-ocean-wave coupling models | Q4 2022 |
| Understanding of the Future Irish Climate using EC-Earth Climate Simulations | Q4 2022 |
| Production of National Standard Climate Maps to Support Irish Building Standards | Q1 2023 |
| Production of Climate Monitoring Indices and Products | Q1 2023 |
| TRANSLATE – Coordination of Standardised Climate Projections for Ireland and the Development of Climate Services | Q2 2023 |
| Fog Forecasting for Irish Airports Using Machine Learning Methods | Q4 2023 |
| A Review of Met Éireann's Environmental Monitoring Programme, Laboratory Processes and Operations | Q4 2023 |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Machine Learning for High-Resolution Numerical Weather Prediction | Q4 2024 |
| Flood Inundation Forecasting using Machine Learning and Remote Sensing | Q3 2025 |
| SFI Centre for Research Training use of Applied Mathematics, Statistical Learning & Machine Learning for Weather and Climate Research | Q4 2025 |
| Improving EC-Earth's Modelling of the North Atlantic Ocean-Atmosphere System | Q2 2026 |
| Enhancing Soil Moisture Monitoring and Modelling using the Novel Cosmic Ray Neutron Technique in the newly-established Irish Soil Moisture Monitoring Network (ISMON) | Q2 2026 |

Appendix 8: Public Consultations Undertaken In 2022

- [Public Consultation on the Review of the Rental Accommodation Scheme \(RAS\)](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Proposed Data Sharing Agreement between the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland \(DSA in advance of consultation regarding Ministerial Directions\)](#)
- [Public Consultation on a New Strategy Statement for the National Parks and Wildlife Service](#)
- [Public Consultation on Transboundary Environmental –Awel y Môr Offshore Windfarm, approximately 10km off the coast of North Wales](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Proposed Data Sharing Agreement between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland \(DSA for Archaeological Excavations License data\)](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Proposed Data Sharing Agreement between the Department Of Housing Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum Of Ireland \(DSA or Consents for National Monument Works Data\)](#)
- [Public Consultation on Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Draft Planning and Development Act 2000 \(Exempted Development\) \(No. 3\) Regulations 2022 and the Draft Planning and Development \(Solar Safeguarding Zone\) Regulations 2022- Solar Exemptions](#)
- [Public Consultation on The Introduction of the European Union \(District Heating\) Regulations 2022](#)
- [Public Consultation on Independent Economic Appraisal of proposed Land Value Sharing Measures \(LVS\)](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Draft Fire Safety Guide for Building Owners and Operators - Guide for Persons having Control under Section 18\(2\) Fire Services Acts 1981 & 2003](#)
- [Public Consultation on Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Marine Strategy Part 3: Programme of Measures](#)
- [Public Consultation on the Youth Homelessness Strategy](#)
- [Public Consultation on Wild Birds Declaration 2022-2023](#)

- [Public Consultation on Review of Building Regulations Part M \(Access and Use\) to make provision for a changing places toilet in certain buildings](#)
- [Online Survey in Relation to Defects in Apartment and Duplex Buildings](#)

Appendix 9: Bodies under the Aegis of the Department at Year-End 2022

Much of our work is carried out in close cooperation with the 31 local authorities and a number of specific agencies and bodies. They are diverse in size and function, provide policy support and implementation, as well as having regulatory, enforcement, information provision, and appellate responsibilities. Details in relation to our main agencies are summarised in the table below.

| Body | Accountable Person (Head of Office) | Governing Legislation |
|---|---|---|
| An Bord Pleanála | Oonagh Buckley (Interim Chairperson) | Planning and Development Act, 2000 |
| An Fóram Uisce | Dónal Purcell | S.I. No. 193/2018 - Water Services Act 2017 (Part 5) (Establishment Day) Order 2018 |
| Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority | Susanna Lyons | Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Act 2019 |
| Docklands Oversight and Consultative Forum | Michael Stubbs (Chair) | Dublin Docklands Development Authority (Dissolution) Act 2015 |
| Ervia | Cathal Marley | Gas Act 1976 (as amended) |
| - Gas Networks Ireland | Cathal Marley | Gas Regulation Act 2013 and Constitution of Gas Networks Ireland |
| - Uisce Éireann² | Niall Gleeson | Water Services Acts 2007 to 2022 and Constitution of Uisce Éireann |

² Irish Water's name changed to Uisce Éireann on 31 December 2022, by way of section 5 of the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022

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|--|------------------|--|
| Heritage Council | Virginia Teehan | The Heritage Act 1995, Section 5 (amended by Heritage Act 2018) |
| Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency | Bob Jordan | S.I. No. 264/2012 amended by S.I. No. 123/2022 Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency (Establishment) Order 2012 |
| Housing Finance Agency | Barry O'Leary | Housing Finance Agency Act 1981 |
| Land Development Agency | John Coleman | Land Development Agency Act 2021 |
| Local Government Management Agency | Paul Dunne | S.I. No. 290/2012 - Local Government Management Agency (Establishment) Order 2012 amended by S.I. No. 220/2013 - Local Government Management Agency (Establishment) (Amendment) Order 2013 |
| National Oversight and Audit Commission | Michael McCarthy | Local Government Reform Act 2014, Section 126B (1) |
| National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee | Eoin O'Sullivan | Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, Section 19 |
| Office of the Planning Regulator | Niall Cussen | Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 |
| Ordnance Survey Ireland | Colin Bray | Ordnance Survey Ireland Act 2001 |
| Property Registration Authority | Liz Pope | Registration of Deeds and Title Act 2006 |
| Pyrite Resolution Board | Martin Lynch | Pyrite Resolution Act 2013 |
| Residential Tenancies Board | Niall Byrne | Residential Tenancies Act 2004 |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Valuation Office | Colm Lavery | Valuation Act 2001 |
| Valuation Tribunal | Ann Gill / Graham Doyle ³ | Valuation Act 2001 |
| Water Advisory Body | Paul McGowan | Section 29 of the Water Services Act 2017 |
| Waterways Ireland | John McDonagh | British-Irish Agreement Act, 1999 |

³ The Valuation Tribunal moved to the Vote of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 1 January 2022.

Glossary

| | |
|---------------|---|
| ABP | An Bord Pleanála |
| ACCORD | Action for Community Organisation, Rehabilitation and Development |
| AHB | Approved Housing Body |
| AHBRA | Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority |
| AMAP | Aviation Modernisation and Automation Project |
| ASSAP | Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme |
| AWOS | Automated Weather Observing System |
| BCM | Business Continuity Management |
| BER | Building Energy Rating |
| BHIS | Built Heritage Investment Scheme |
| BSAU | Building Standards Unit |
| CALF | Capital Advance Leasing Facility |
| CAP | Climate Action Plan |
| CBL | Choice Based Letting |
| CIRI | Construction Industry Register Ireland |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species |
| CJEU | Court of Justice of the European Union |
| CMF | Community Monuments Fund |
| COP | Conference of Parties |
| CPPD | Continuing Personal and Professional Development |
| CSO | Central Statistics Office |
| DAC | Dedicated Activity Company |
| DCB | Defective Concrete Blocks |
| DCEDIY | Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth |
| DHLGH | Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage |
| DMAP | Designated Maritime Area Plans |
| DPER | Department of Public Expenditure and Reform |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| DRHE | Dublin Regional Homeless Executive |
| DSA | Delegated State Authority |
| DWWTS | Domestic Waste Water Treatment System |
| EASA | European Aviation Safety Agency |
| EC-Earth | European Consortium |
| ECMWF | European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts |
| ECV | Essential Climate Variables |
| EDRRS | Enhanced Decommissioning Restoration and Rehabilitation Scheme |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EMEP | European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme |
| EMFAF | European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund |
| EOI | Expression of Interest |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| EPBD | Energy Performance of Buildings Directive |
| ERB | Earth Radiation Budget |
| EU | European Union |
| EUMETNET | European Meteorological Services/Network |
| EUROCONTROL | European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation |
| EV | Electric Vehicle |
| FEMPI | Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest |
| FEWS | Flood Early Warning System |
| FFC | Flood Forecast Centre |
| FMSS | Financial Management Shared Services |
| FOI | Freedom of Information |
| GAW | Global Atmosphere Watch |
| GCOS | Global Climate Observing System |
| GES | Good Environmental Status |
| GPP | Green Public Procurement |
| HAA | Housing Agency Acquisitions |

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| HAP | Housing Assistance Payment |
| HCLIM | Historical Climate Database – HARMONIE Climate |
| HFI | Housing First Implementation |
| HNDA | Housing Needs and Demand Assessment |
| HOB | Head of Business Unit |
| HPC | High Performance Computer |
| HR | Human Resources |
| HSF | Historic Structures Fund |
| IAU | Internal Audit Unit |
| ICAO | International Civil Aviation Organisation |
| ICHEC | Irish Centre for High-End Computing |
| ICT | Information and Communications Technology |
| IMaMS | ICT Migration and Managed Services |
| IMI | Irish Management Institute |
| IPA | Institute of Public Administration |
| IPPF | International Professional Practices Framework |
| ISMON | Irish Soil Moisture Monitoring Network |
| ISO | International Organization for Standardization |
| LA | Local Authority |
| LAWPRO | Local Authority Waters Programme |
| LBAF | Local Biodiversity Action Fund |
| LDA | Land Development Agency |
| LGMA | Local Government Management Agency |
| LIFE-IP | Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE Integrated Project |
| LIHAF | Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund |
| LMS | Learning Management System |
| LPT | Local Property Tax |
| LVS | Land Value Sharing Measures |
| MARA | Marine Area Regulatory Authority |

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| METCOM | Meteorological Contour Matching |
| MMS | Meteorological Messaging System |
| MPA | Marine Protected Areas |
| MS | Microsoft |
| MSFD | Marine Strategy Framework Directive |
| MSP | Managed Service Provider |
| MTR | Mortgage to Rent |
| NBAP | National Biodiversity Action Plan |
| NCFM | National Coastal Flood Model |
| NDP | National Development Plan |
| NFFWS | National Flood Forecast and Warning Service |
| NHAC | National Homeless Action Committee |
| NMPF | National Marine Planning Framework |
| NPF | National Planning Framework |
| NPWS | National Parks & Wildlife Service |
| NSMC | North South Ministerial Council |
| NWP | Numerical Weather Prediction |
| NZEB | Nearly Zero Energy Buildings |
| OPR | Office of the Planning Regulator |
| OPW | Office of Public Works |
| ORE | Offshore Renewable Energy |
| OSPAR | Oslo & Paris Protection of the Marine Environment In The North Atlantic |
| PD | Protected Disclosures |
| PMDS | Performance Management and Development System |
| PO | Principal Officer |
| POM | Programmes of Measure |
| PPR | Principal Private Residence |
| PPSN | Personal Public Service Number |
| QSR | Quality Status Report |

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| RAP ML | Regional Action Plan – Marine Litter |
| RAS | Rental Accommodation Scheme |
| RBMP | River Basin Management Plan |
| RPS | Records of Protected Structures |
| RTB | Residential Tenancies Board |
| S.I. | Statutory Instrument |
| SCSI | Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SFI | Science Foundation of Ireland |
| SHY | Supported Housing for Youth |
| TOD | Transport Orientated Development |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| UN | United Nations |
| UN SDGs | United Nations Sustainable Development Goals |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| URDF | Urban Regeneration and Development Fund |
| UWC | United Weather Centres |
| VAT | Value Added Tax |
| VHF | Very High Frequency |
| VHO | Vacant Homes Officer |
| VHU | Vacant Homes Unit |
| WELL | Wellbeing, Engagement, Learning & Development and Leadership |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive |
| WIGOS | WMO (World Meteorological Organization) Integrated Global Observing System |
| WMO | World Meteorological Organization |
| WOW | Weather Observations Website |
| WPAC | Water Policy Advisory Committee |

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