

Annual Report 2007





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Foreword from the Minister of State



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Since I was appointed as Minister of State at the Department of Finance with responsibility for the Office of Public Works in June 2007, I have become very familiar with the OPW's business plans and projects and have witnessed at first hand the many varied tasks undertaken by the Office.

From my very first duty, the official opening of the refurbished Castletown House in Kildare to the witnessing of the Winter Solstice in Newgrange, I have been encouraged by the professionalism and commitment of all staff in their tasks.

I am conscious that I have arrived in my post at a time of considerable change within the organisation, especially in regard to Decentralisation. I have seen an advanced office set up in Claremorris and laid the foundation stone of the new OPW headquarters in Trim, Co. Meath. I have also attended the openings of several new offices for other Government departments who have moved throughout the Country.

I also attended many Heritage events and witnessed the effects of flooding in certain areas of the country and realise that the works undertaken by the OPW are indeed many and varied. What has impressed me most to date is the commitment and dedication of the staff here in the OPW and I congratulate you all on your efforts and wish you continued success in the tasks and challenges ahead.

Noel Ahern.
Minister of State.

Foreword from the Chairman



I am delighted to bring to you the 2007 Annual Report, which highlights what would be considered another milestone year for the Office of Public Works. This report gives a broad insight into some of the achievements over the last year and a brief outline of some of the many projects undertaken by the Office.

Of course Decentralisation was to the fore in our work, where, by the end of 2007 we had completed or significantly advanced property solutions in 42 locations throughout the Country and with construction works underway on many sites. Over 2,000 staff are now in either permanent or advanced accommodation, including our own OPW staff who now have a significant presence in Claremorris, Co. Mayo. In December, we selected the preferred bidder for what will be the largest PPP decentralisation project involving three departments moving to Portlaoise, Mullingar and Carlow and involves over 1,400 staff. We also laid the 'Foundation stone' for our own new Headquarters in Trim, Co. Meath and I am happy to report the construction of this fine building is well underway.

The re-opening of Castletown House in Celbridge and the many events that have taken place there since has seen visitor numbers treble in the year. Our National Monuments and Historic Properties Service is seeing increases at many of our sites and the first ever 'web broadcast' of the winter solstice in 2007 saw over 300,000 people witness this unique event.

The sales and disposals of surplus and redundant properties continued in 2007 along with new joint development initiatives for a number of State owned properties, including Hawkins House, were announced.

Similarly, much work has progressed in relation to Flood Risk Management with enabling works taking place in Clonmel and other schemes, such as Mallow and Ennis brought to contract stage.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you all once again for your continued hard work and dedication in meeting the challenges and demands placed upon us and which we have successfully delivered.

Sean Benton
Chairman
Office of Public Works

Newgrange

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Management Advisory Committee

1.
Séan Benton
Chairman

2.
David Byers
Commissioner

- Areas of responsibility:
- Property Management
 - Property Maintenance
 - Heritage Services

3.
Clare McGrath
Commissioner

- Areas of responsibility:
- Project Management Services
 - Special Projects Unit
 - Projects Support Unit

4.
Tony Smyth
Director of Engineering Services

5.
Patrick Cooney
Director of Architectural Services

6.
Vincent Campbell
Director of Corporate Services

Strategic Review

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Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2007 Progress	Comment
<p>1. To deliver on the Annual Work Programme and in particular, meet the key Government and Customer requirements for decentralisation projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post assessment of work programme targets 	<p>The Management Advisory Committee were broadly satisfied that the agreed Work Programme for 2007 was delivered efficiently and effectively in line with targets set at the beginning of the year.</p> <p>The Decentralisation Programme was delivered in line with targets set by the Decentralisation Implementation Group.</p> <p>Approx. 99% of the Vote allocation was spent at year end.</p> <p>The target for income was exceeded by 23% - with total Appropriations in Aid reaching €26.237m in the year. A further €3.5m was collected from the sale of properties.</p> <p>The net position on the total Vote was an approx. 98% outturn.</p> <p>Expenditure on SWA accounts during the year was €51.7m and on Health and Safety works €40.5m giving a total of €92.2m.</p>	
<p>2. To deliver successfully on the decentralisation of OPW.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advising Minister and Government of pertinent organisational issues resulting from Decentralisation. • Development of a project implementation strategy that recognises the importance of proactive management of the HRM dimension of decentralisation. • Commencement of service delivery from new locations with voluntary redeployed staff. 	<p>The Minister of State and the MAC received regular reports throughout 2007 on progress and organisational issues relating to Decentralisation.</p> <p>By the end of the year 221 (76.5%) of the Central Applications Facility (CAF) places for Trim had been assigned and 186 of those had taken up duty in the Office of Public Works.</p> <p>Construction of the Headquarters accommodation in Trim commenced mid 2007. It is anticipated that the building will be complete and occupancy commenced during the first quarter of 2009.</p> <p>Office space for an Advance Office was acquired in Scurlockstown Park, Trim and fit out commenced towards the end of 2007. Approximately 30 staff will be assigned to this Office from early 2008.</p>	<p>Priority was given to the decentralisation to Trim during 2007 as the Government has selected it as an 'early mover' location.</p> <p>72% of staff assigned from the CAF are from administrative grades. Agreement has yet to be reached centrally with the professional and technical group on the implementation of the decentralisation programme.</p>

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2007 Progress	Comment
		<p>An Advance Office was established in Claremorris with 23 staff members in place by the end of the year. A further 7 staff are due to take up duty in that office early in 2008.</p> <p>Expressions of interest were secured during 2007 for the design/build process of the Claremorris permanent building, in respect of a site already acquired. A list of invitations for tender was agreed. Work was carried out on the development of tender documentation with a view to issuing Requests for Tender early in 2008.</p> <p>Work was carried out on the acquisition of a site for the Kanturk permanent office and that process was nearing completion by the end of 2007. Work had also begun on the identification of specific accommodation needs with a view to advertising for expressions of interest for a design/build project.</p>	
<p>3. To deliver specific customer service initiatives in the context of the overall delivery of a Quality Customer Service and to periodically assess QCS against defined criteria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of existing ISO accreditation • Achievement of ISO accreditation in remaining areas 	<p>All the separate existing ISO accreditations within the OPW were maintained in 2007.</p> <p>In relation to the achievement of ISO accreditation in other areas of the OPW:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government Supplies Agency was audited by the National Standards Authority Ireland (NSAI) in November 2007 and received certification on 7 December 2007. • By the end of 2007 Flood Risk Assessment and Management had developed a full set of procedures and will apply to the NSAI for accreditation in 2008. • By the end of 2007 the Property Maintenance Services was at an advanced state of preparation for ISO accreditation but had not been audited. 	<p><i>In addition to ISO accreditation the Drainage Maintenance and Construction Units of Engineering Services of the OPW achieved OHSAS 18001 accreditation following audits by NSAI. This is a recognised occupational health and safety management system standard against which managements systems are assessed and certified. The OPW is the first civil service organisation to achieve this accreditation.</i></p>

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2007 Progress	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of SLA's • Development of feedback mechanisms, surveys etc. 	<p>Towards the end of 2007 the Drainage Maintenance Unit of Engineering Services initiated the process of entering in to a Service Level Agreement with Waterways Ireland. This will allow the transfer of plant between the organisations to maximise utilisation and avoid duplication of procurement in relation to specialised equipment.</p> <p>The implementation of Client Feedback mechanisms continued to be a feature of OPW operations during 2007 for example:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Heritage Service Customer Surveys were carried out in 2007; • Client Feedback is formally sought on completion of all architectural projects and the information gained is used to assist with improving client services in that area. • IT Services carry out regular internal customer surveys particularly in relation to helpdesk services. • Quarterly meetings are held with clients of the Property Maintenance Business Unit to formally review the work programmes which are being carried out. Informal surveys are also carried out at regional level on an ongoing basis. • Property Management Business Unit holds regular structured client feedback meetings with client Departments to discuss progress on work and to identify emerging priorities. • Engineering Services Business Unit's surveys of landowners show a high level of satisfaction for 2007: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South West 95% West 93% East 97% • Engineering Design Section undertake client satisfaction questionnaires on an ongoing basis for projects completed and satisfaction levels continue to be high. 	

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2007 Progress	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurement of service performance against benchmarks and external comparators. 	<p>As in other years, during 2007 the Architectural Service Business Unit cost all its inputs (salary, overhead etc.) and compiled a notional billing for all its services, comparing this to external fee comparators in the Private Sector to ensure that it offers good value for money when compared to outsourced offerings. Similar exercise were also undertaken within the Mechanical & Electrical section of Engineering Services.</p> <p>The OPW Management Advisory Committee meets on a twice yearly basis with its counterparts in the NI Department of Finance and Personnel to discuss and compare areas of mutual interest such as procurement, project management etc.</p> <p>The OPW participates in the WorldWide Workplace Web (W4) which is an international forum of public sector real property professionals. It facilitates collaboration, sharing best practices and discussing issues of common concern.</p> <p>Locally within Business Units, benchmarking exercises were carried out, on a regular basis, to spot check value for money is being obtained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property Management Services regularly compare rent review, lease and property purchase outcomes with norms in the property industry; Project Management Services / Quantity Surveying Section constantly review building prices with construction industry norms. Farmleigh participates in the 'Service Excellence' award under Fáilte Ireland's Optimus Programme. This is a tourism/hospitality industry benchmark for the delivery of the highest standards of customer service. 	<p>Work is continuing to implement methods of benchmarking other services in OPW, including Project Management Services and Property Management Services. Discussions were ongoing with Public Sector comparator bodies in Northern Ireland to carry out a meaningful exercise.</p> <p>Engineering Services meets at senior level annually with our NI counterparts – Rivers Agency. Meetings take place regularly between staff of both organisations to discuss specific operational issues such as H&S, mechanical plant procurement and operation.</p> <p>Engineering Services is involved in a number of InterReg IV proposals as a way of widening our network of contacts with counterpart organisations across Europe.</p> <p>In Autumn 2007, Engineering Services held a second annual meeting with our counterparts in the DEFRA, the UK Government Department with policy responsibility for flood risk management to exchange information on methodologies and approaches to the topic. The UK Environment Agency and the Department for Communities and Local Government had a representative at the meeting also.</p>

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2007 Progress	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Heritage Council has accepted Farmleigh into the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland. This Programme consists of a series of detailed, and rigorous, minimum standards and objectives that recognise international best practice in museums. 	
<p>4. To be the provider of choice for customers in the areas of general procurement, property maintenance and all construction-related services solutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise Government in relation to cutting-edge procurement methods. Recognition as leading expert in the field of diverse State property and portfolio management. Maintain position as leading State body delivering excellent professional services in construction. 	<p>The OPW continued its role of advising Government and client Departments and Agencies on procurement issues.</p> <p>During 2007 it continued to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> play a key central role in regard to the provision of property and accommodation solutions for a large number of Public and Civil Service organisations covered by the Government's Decentralisation Programme. deliver new construction, refurbishment, conservation, and major maintenance projects on behalf of OPW customers. This involved managing the development of tender documentation, assembling and appointing design teams, securing necessary planning permissions, selecting contractors, overseeing progress on site and managing the costs of the projects. handle refurbishment, fitting-out projects, and routine maintenance work on Government buildings throughout the country. provide a central procurement service in markets that are amenable to aggregation, for Government Departments and Offices. These goods and services were generally commodity type items available from stable supply markets. procure utilities i.e. electricity and natural gas at 	<p>GSA contracts are designed to provide the flexibility to</p>

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2007 Progress	Comment
		<p>fixed and significantly reduced rates for participating Departments</p>	<p>enable individual buyers meet their own specific requirements. The GSA has developed a number of standardised product ranges in order to leverage the maximum purchasing power in the market. These ranges are subject to constant review to ensure that they meet customers' needs.</p>
<p>5. To develop programmes and measures to implement flood risk management policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise Government in relation to flood risk management and flood risk management policy. • Development of detailed programmes and measures to implement the recommendations of the Report of the Flood Policy Review Group. • Establish a consultative framework involving relevant stakeholders. • Develop criteria for prioritisation of expenditure. • Develop criteria for designation of high flood risk watercourses. 	<p>The OPW continued in its role as lead agency in the management of flood risk and development of flood risk management policy.</p> <p>Plan agreed and work commenced on defined work programme early 2007.</p> <p>An Inter-Departmental Group has been established to critically analyse delivery of the Policy. The OPW is actively engaged with a range of Departments and Agencies on discussing cross-functional elements of the Policy. A partnership approach has been adopted with Local Authorities to develop cooperative solutions for the provision of flood defence schemes in problem areas. Schemes are delivered under OPW or LA powers and procedures as is most appropriate in each case.</p> <p>A study was commissioned during 2007, which will report in early 2008, on indicators of risk. This study will provide the Office with the evidence necessary to support the development of effective criteria for prioritisation of expenditure.</p> <p>Research was completed during 2007 in relation to International practice in channel designation. A draft policy document was developed examining delivery of the high risk channel designation programme.</p>	

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2007 Progress	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver on flood risk management work programmes and projects (structural and non-structural flood relief measures). • Develop and disseminate Flood Hazard Mapping Information. 	<p>Flood Risk Management work projects were increased from 15 to 21 during 2007. These projects range across the full remit of the OPW's response to the National Flood Policy and include such issues as Review of Legislation, Communication Programme, Research and Development, Emergency Response Development and aspects of the Capital Flood Relief Programme.</p> <p>2007 was the first full year of the flood hazard mapping website and work on its development in the area of predictive mapping continued during the year.</p>	
<p>6. To achieve greater efficiency in the use of State property assets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing review of property portfolio to ensure best value for money. • Liaison with appropriate parties (i.e. Local Authorities and State agencies) to ensure that property potential is maximised. • Development of Joint Venture proposals with third parties. • Disposals where appropriate. 	<p>The OPW continued to manage the property portfolio with value for money as a primary focus of its endeavours.</p> <p>Three Joint Venture proposals with developers were actively progressed during 2007. Proposals around buildings in Hatch Street and O'Connell Street were closed during the year with the third involving Hawkins House to close in early 2008.</p> <p>A full list of disposals, acquisitions and lease agreements are detailed later in this report. However some the more significant were:-</p> <p>Disposals Former Garda Station, Longford Former Military Hospital, Fermoy, Co. Cork Land adjacent to the Royal Hospital Kilmainham</p> <p>Acquisitions Sites for decentralised offices in Drogheda, Co. Louth Damastown Warehouse Roscommon Government Office Enfield Garda Station</p>	<p><i>As in recent years the major focus throughout 2007 in terms of acquisition was on securing sites for the Decentralisation Programme. As the Decentralisation Programme progresses all leases and rentals are being critically examined and evaluated with a view to disposal of leases which are considered expendable.</i></p>

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2007 Progress	Comment
<p>7. To maximise the opportunities to provide greater public access to heritage sites and present them to visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-badging of sites for presentation to the public under the OPW brand. • Development of in-house mechanisms to share appropriate skills between the Heritage Services and other OPW Business Units. • Identification of areas of common interest between Heritage Services and other OPW Business Units and agreement of strategies to ensure a unified approach to relevant issues. 	<p>Transformation of Visitor and Heritage sites under the OPW brand is broadly concluded. This was reinforced in December 2007 with the relaunch of the Heritage-Ireland website under the OPW brand.</p> <p>Co-operation between Heritage Services and other Business Units progressed successfully during 2007 with strong co-operation at all levels.</p> <p>Management of Kilkenny Castle moved from the Heritage Services area of the OPW to the Facilities Management Business Unit. This will open up the possibilities of more diverse use of the Castle e.g. Conference Centre, Banqueting facility etc.</p>	<p>In addition to co-operation on an operational level between the Heritage Services and other OPW Business Units Partnership within the OPW is being used to reinforce integration of the Heritage Services. Work began during 2007 to encourage personnel at local heritage sites and depots to become actively involved in Partnership with the OPW. This work will continue during 2008 with emphasis on Western and North Western regions of the country initially.</p>
<p>8. To sustain a positive approach to the Partnership model as a vehicle for improving communication and ensuring staff input into policy development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing Partnership structures, including Working Groups. • Publish Annual Work Programme. • Devise OPW communication strategy. • Absorb any new developments in regard to Partnership emanating from the Centre in the lifetime of the Strategy. • Develop consultative arrangements with staff at local level within Business Units. 	<p>The Partnership Structures have continued to be very active in the OPW during 2007. Working Groups were active in the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Agenda – Work carried out on the development of a Sustainability Policy for the Office • Strategy Statement development – Strategy Statement submitted to the Minister for Finance with six months of the appointment of the Government. • HRM Strategy development – work continued on the development and implementation of HR Policy • Quality Customer Service – Quality Customer Services initiatives continued to be implemented • Electronic Clocking/Time Management – a new working group was established to examine the time attendance systems in use throughout the OPW. • Towards 2016 agreement – Reports prepared and submitted in time for consideration by the Department of Finance and the Civil Service Performance Verification Group. • Merit Awards – Events 	

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2007 Progress	Comment
		<p>organised to reward good staff performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports & Social matters – Events of educational, sporting and social nature organised <p>A work programme was devised and published at the outset of the year and implemented throughout the year. The South West Partnership committee also implemented its work programme which was agreed at the beginning of the year.</p> <p>The main committee focused on issues relating to membership and coverage of all of the stakeholders within the Office, information relating to decentralisation, training for Partnership members and development of the role of Partnership members. Members from the West and South West Partnership committees were also involved in the training and development projects.</p>	
<p>9. To continue to modernise the Human Resource function so as to better meet the needs of the staff of OPW and the skills and human resources requirements of the business.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of new HR Strategy. • Embedding PMDS • Maintenance and development of Partnership structures. • Development of Peoplesoft. 	<p>Progress continued on the modernisation of HR functions during 2007. Work was completed on the interim HR Strategy by the HR Strategy Working Group of Partnership and work began on its implementation e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction Training for new entrants was introduced. • The rating system within PMDS was introduced from 1 January 2007. • The Equality Unit's 2007 Work Programme reflected actions to maintain progress on Gender and Diversity Equality policy throughout the OPW. • All promotions within the OPW are competitive and competency based. • A working group of partnership was established to examine flexi/time attendance systems in operation within the OPW. <p>Work continued on the</p>	

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2007 Progress	Comment
		<p>maintenance and development of Partnership structures – see objective 8 above and the section later in this volume for more detail on this matter.</p>	
<p>10. To develop efficient corporate reporting arrangements to disseminate critical work activity and financial information and timely decision-making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of MIF • Development of e-Strategy Initiatives 	<p>Work continued on the development of further phases of the MIF. An online travel and subsistence module was piloted and will roll-out fully during 2008.</p> <p>Information capture of fixed assets and collation of that information was progressed during 2007. The fixed assets module of MIF will go live early in 2008.</p> <p>Work was carried out on the development and installation of an enterprise search engine to allow staff throughout the OPW to retrieve information from various disparate sources thereby aiding better and timely decision making.</p> <p>A collaborative workspace SocialText which is a web-based wiki environment was introduced internally during 2007. This allows staff to exchange ideas and disseminate information which in turn aids decision making and knowledge capture.</p> <p>2007 was the Flood-Mapping interactive website's first full year in operation. The website is used by organisations and individuals to assist with the management of development in floodplains and other areas at risk from tidal or surface water flooding.</p> <p>A substantial project is in train since mid 2006 to improve the design, quality and effectiveness of the OPW Main Website and its subsidiary sites (Flooding, Heritage, etc.). During 2007 Castletown House website was relaunched in July and Heritage Ireland website was relaunched in December. The Heritage Ireland relaunch involved a webcast, for the first time of the winter solstice from Newgrange on 21/22 December.</p>	

Quality Customer Service Initiatives

The following is a synopsis of headline Quality Customer Service Initiatives which took place during 2007. It is worth emphasising, however, that, as it is a service organisation the OPW has a strong customer focus which we seek to embed in all of our day to day interactions with our customers. These are Government, other Departments, Offices and Agencies and, ultimately, the public.

The OPW seeks to respond speedily and efficiently to our customers' needs and to routinely provide opportunities for customer feedback .

OPW's Scheme under the Official Languages Act 2003

The OPW's scheme under the Official Languages Act, which commenced with effect from the 8th of May 2007 was published on the internet site and on CD and accompanying Executive Summary. The starting point of the scheme is the identification of existing bilingual service delivery within the OPW and a resolution to build on this for the future.

The OPW has committed to do the following by the end of the scheme in 2010:-

- We will set up internal structures to deal with OPW's obligations under the Act;
- We will put arrangements in place to assess the level of demand for bilingual services among our customers to help us to prioritise the needs;

- We will make arrangements for the delivery of an increased amount of services bilingually in certain initial key work areas;
- We will provide additional access to language and translation resources for staff;
- We will progressively increase the amount of Irish language content on the OPW website;
- We will progressively increase the amount of Irish language publications in the Heritage Services area
- We will set out our training strategy to underpin the delivery of an increasing amount of bilingual services in the OPW's second and subsequent schemes.

During 2007 a list of accredited translators was compiled by the Public Relations Unit. They were written to asking if they wish to be called on to provide translation services to the OPW. All who responded favourably were included on the list of approved translators for use by the OPW. Staff have been informed of the list and have been drawing on it for translations.

Arrangements have been put on place to deliver a portion of Press Releases in Irish so as to meet target dates in the Scheme.

Work will continue throughout 2008 and 2009 to implement OPW's commitments under the scheme.

OPW Website Development

A substantial project was in train during 2007, which will continue during 2008, to improve the quality and effectiveness of the OPW Main Website and its subsidiary sites (Flooding, Heritage, Castletown House etc.). As part of this project, management arrangements are now in place to ensure robust systems for verifying content relevance, accuracy and timeliness. Management protocols have been put in place to manage website preparation and presentation and various function-specific sites have been redesigned or are in the process of being redesigned. All websites within OPW will be interlinked for customers' convenience.

Customer Feedback

The OPW has achieved ISO accreditation for its main business processes. ISO provides an independent assurance that the service provided by the OPW conforms to a high agreed standard. The accreditation is independently certified by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) and the business areas are audited by them annually to ensure that standards are maintained. The Government Supplies Agency is the most recent area of the OPW to achieve accreditation having been audited for the first time in November 2007 and being certified on 7 December 2007.

Among the features of the systems now in place in the OPW, which have assisted us in achieving ISO accreditation, is an aim to provide ultimate customer satisfaction through the receipt of an enhanced standard of service that is on time ,

within budget and quality monitored. Systematic customer feedback at regular intervals during the lifetime of projects/provision of services forms an integral part of these systems. For example,

- Client Feedback is formally sought on completion of all architectural projects and the information gained is used to assist with improving client services in that area.
- Quarterly meetings are held with clients of the Property Maintenance Business Unit to formally review the work programmes which are being carried out. Informal surveys are also carried out at regional level on an ongoing basis.
- Property Management Business Unit holds regular structured client feedback meetings with client Departments to discuss progress on work and to identify emerging priorities.
- Drainage Maintenance field staff issue survey forms, on a monthly basis, to a sample of landowners affected by operations. These surveys show a high level of satisfaction for 2007.
- Three workshops were held with engineering practitioners from Local Authorities, private practices and educational institutions during 2007 to get feedback and input into OPW's Flood Studies Report update programme.

The Heritage Services Business Unit of the OPW is one area where the Office has day to day contact with the general public. Two Customer Surveys were carried out in that area during 2007. The first was of the General Public/tourist visitors at the Kilmainham Jail site and the second was of the General Public/tourist visitors at Clonmacnoise. The responses are being used by the OPW to aid to planning future service delivery at those sites.

Maintenance Helpdesk and other customer initiatives

Awareness of the maintenance helpdesk service continued to build during 2007. In addition, the Property Maintenance Services of the OPW is piloting the use of Measured Term Contracts in the Dublin area. In terms of the maintenance services provided by the OPW, a Measured Term Contract is an arrangement whereby a contractor undertakes to carry out a series of works orders, over a period of years, within a defined geographical area and where the work is subsequently measured and valued at rates contained in a pre-priced Schedule of Rates. A fully centralised Help Desk offering a single point of contact to OPW clients within the geographical area forms part of the initiative and will result in improved customer services.

Voicemail

The voicemail facility is installed in all OPW HQ and Regional Offices. Smaller Heritage Service offices have their own arrangements for ensuring access by customers to their telephone services.

Training for New Entrants

Induction talks were held for new entrants during 2007. Staff are also facilitated and encouraged to acquire relevant professional training in areas such as procurement and property and estate management. A special emphasis is placed on the continuing professional development of professional and technical staff.

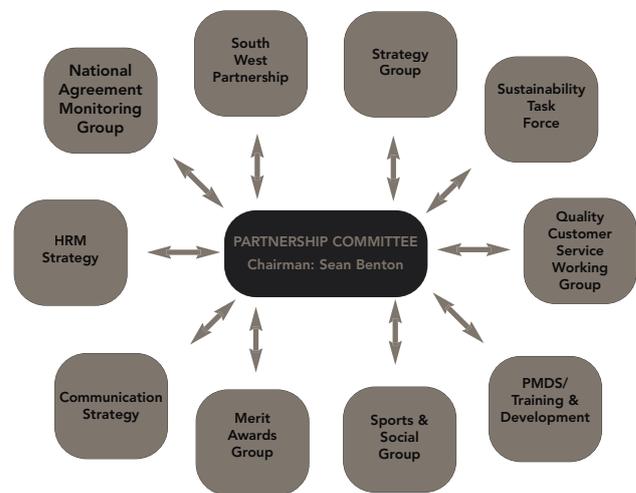
Revenue Commissioners Decentralised Offices, Listowel, Co. Kerry



Partnership Committee Report of Activity for 2007

Partnership continued to be very active during 2007 as a vehicle for communication with staff and for ensuring their input into policy development.

The OPW Partnership structure operates through a series of Working Groups dedicated towards specific areas of activity which report into the main Partnership Committee, chaired by Mr Seán Benton, Chairman, OPW. The chart below shows the Groups which operated during 2007. Early in 2007 the main committee devised and published a work programme which it implemented throughout the year. It focused on issues such as information relating to the OPW Decentralisation Programme, membership and coverage of all of the stakeholders within the Office, training for Partnership members and development of the role of Partnership members.



South West Partnership

The South West Partnership Committee was set up to operate under the Main OPW Partnership Committee as a working group. It comprises staff members from the various Business Units with operational functions within the province of Munster. Its membership comes from and is representative of administrative, professional, technical and industrial staff employed in the region. A member of the main Partnership Committee who is also a member of the South West Group ensures that the Group's views are represented at main Partnership Committee meetings and that the Group is kept informed of developments at national level. It also has a member on the Strategy Working Group and it is envisaged

that its members will in future become involved with the other working groups of the Main Partnership Committee. Its primary function is to create a Partnership awareness and involvement in the Southern Region and to represent and seek participation of the locally based staff in relation to all OPW issues. The ongoing development of the Partnership Model structure in conjunction with the main Partnership Committee was one of the key work areas of the group during 2007 and will continue into 2008. Among its achievements in 2007, the Group was instrumental in having a defibrillator installed at the Rock of Cashel Visitor Centre and ensuring that staff were trained in its use. The Group has also had suggestions for Social Working Group activity in the area accepted by the main Partnership Committee.

Work began on the development of a similar group in the Western area of the country and it is intended that this will be fully functioning by mid 2008.

Strategy Group

The Strategy Working Group, which is chaired by Commissioner Clare McGrath, is responsible for the development of new Statements of Strategy within the OPW and for reviewing the implementation of existing Statements. 2007 was busy year for the Group, which monitored the implementation of the 2005 to 2008 Strategy and reported to MAC and to Partnership on its implementation. In addition, it was involved in the development of a new Strategy Statement to cover the period 2008 to 2011. Under the terms of the Public Service Management Act 1997 the OPW is required to prepare a three year Strategy Statement following the appointment of a new Government. The new Statement was drawn up therefore following the appointment of the Government in June 2007 and having consulted both internally through our partnership structures and management networks and externally with our customers.

Sustainability Task Force

The Sustainability Task Force is chaired by Commissioner David Byers and during 2007 it commissioned a study into sustainability practices in all OPW areas of operation. The study carried out during 2007 will be used by the Task Force as the basis for the development of a Sustainability Strategy for the OPW. The Task Force's aim is that OPW will, in time,

become a Centre for Excellence in the area of sustainability offering other Government Departments & Agencies advice on best practice.

National Agreement Monitoring Group

This Working Group assists the Chairman and MAC with monitoring the implementation of OPW's Action Plan for the implementation of the agenda for modernisation set out in the National Agreement, Towards 2016. During 2007 the Working Group provided two reports on the implementation of the Action Plan. The first report was produced in April 2007 in respect of the second phase of the Towards 2016 agreement and led to the award of the second Public Service Pay award to OPW staff in June. The second report was produced in December 2007 in relation to the third phase of the agreement and the third Public Service pay award which is due to be made in March 2008.

Quality Customer Service Group

The Quality Customer Service (QCS) Working Group continued to monitor the implementation of the Customer Action Plan and Customer Charter within OPW and to report to MAC in relation to the customer service initiatives. More detail in relation to these initiatives is contained elsewhere in this report.

The OPW's Official Languages Scheme commenced with effect from 8 May 2007 and was published on the OPW internet site and on CD. The QCS in tandem with line managers

in Business Units is responsible for monitoring the day-to-day implementation of the scheme. The QCS is also responsible for reporting to MAC through Partnership on its monitoring of the scheme.

HRM Strategy Group

The OPW has committed to producing a HR Strategy to codify matters relating to staff management and set out how they will be applied in the workplace. However, the scale of the change arising from Decentralisation in particular and the timing of that change is such that it was decided to produce an interim Strategy which would be implemented in the short term. During 2007, this working group, which is chaired by Mr Vincent Campbell, Director of Corporate Services produced an interim HR Strategy to cover the period up to January 2009. The Group will reconvene during 2008 to develop a more long-term Strategy which will underpin human resource management within the OPW going forward.

PMDS/Training & Development Group

During 2007, this Working Group continued as a forum for input into the Office's Training and Development Policy. The group also advised the Director of Corporate Services and the MAC on matters relating to the Performance Management and Development System.

Communication Strategy Group

The Communications Strategy Working Group is chaired by the Director of Architectural Services and Principal Archi-

tect, Mr Pat Cooney. It is responsible for the development of Communications Strategy within the OPW. This Strategy relates to how the Office, which has staff which is dispersed throughout the country and will be even more so post Decentralisation, communicates internally and externally with customers and other stakeholders.

Merit Awards Group

The Merit Awards Working Group makes recommendations to the main Partnership Committee on how merit pay should be allocated in a given year. As in recent years the Group was responsible for the organisation of a number of Merit Pay parties throughout the country to celebrate the achievements of the office.

Sports & Social Group

This Group deals with the sports sponsorship and the organisation of social activities and cultural tours within the OPW. The Group managed a number of tours to areas of architectural, historical or cultural significance and other events throughout the country during the year. These events are very popular with staff and were very well attended during 2007.

The Group also advised the Partnership Committee on the allocation of sponsorship to individuals from within the Office who are seriously involved in sports or to sporting bodies with membership from within the OPW.

Skellig Michael



Decentralisation

Property Management

The Decentralisation Unit in Property Management Services continued to make steady progress in 2007 in the acquisition of sites and leased offices throughout the country.

At the end of 2007, some 40,922 sq.metres/440,484 sq.ft. of office accommodation has been acquired in 28 locations, for both permanent and temporary advance offices.

Permanent decentralised offices, totalling c.22,000 sq.metres, are occupied in leased premises in Ballina, Carrick on Shannon, Kilrush, Listowel, Loughrea, Navan and State-owned premises in Longford, Tullamore and Sligo.

Short term leases have been acquired in a further 20 locations to accommodate advance decentralisation offices, (total space leased on short term basis amounts to 18,053 sq. metres).

A total of 20 sites , and one office block in Tullamore, have been purchased up to the end of 2007 at a combined cost of €70.2 million. Site acquisitions in 2007 included, Wexford, Waterford, Mullingar, Portlaoise, Drogheda, Roscommon, Edenderry.

By the end of 2007, a total of 35 solutions for decentralisation have been completed by Property

Management, through Purchase, Leasing and the use of state-owned property, and a further 8 acquisitions are at an advanced stage.

Project Management Services

Decentralisation Programme – New Builds

Satisfactory progress continued to be made in 2007 in advancing the Government's Decentralisation Programme where the construction of new buildings is the preferred option in terms of providing accommodation for decentralising Government Departments and Offices. A number of procurement methods are being employed in these cases, including Client Led Design Build, Design Build and Design Build Finance Maintain. In relation to the latter, the PPP model is being used with financial advice being provided to the OPW by the National Development Finance Agency.

Construction work was completed during the year in **Longford** where a new Headquarters building was provided for the Irish Prison Service and in **Sligo** where staff of the Department of Social and Family Affairs have located.

Contracts were placed and construction work is well advanced on the Headquarters building for the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism in **Killarney** and a new facility for the Department of Education and Science in **Athlone**.



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OPW HQ, Trim - Model

Contracts were also placed and construction work is in progress on new Headquarters buildings for the OPW in **Trim** and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in **Wexford**, together with accommodation for the Revenue Commissioners in **Newcastlewest**, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and BIM in **Clonakilty**, the Department of Social and Family Affairs in **Buncrana**, the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in **Na Forbacha** and the Private Security Authority in **Tipperary Town**.

A planning application for a new Headquarters for the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs at **Knock Airport** was refused by An Bord Pleanála on foot of a third party appeal. Following on a Government decision, a new site for this development was being sought at the end of 2007. A preferred tenderer was selected and construction of the new Department of Defence Headquarters in **Newbridge** is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2008.

In the case of a major PPP project involving the construction of new offices for the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Education and Science in **Portlaoise**, **Carlow** and **Mullingar**, respectively, a successful tenderer was chosen and planning applications are due to be lodged in early 2008.

Significant progress was also made in relation to a number of locations including **Cavan Town** (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources), **Claremorris** (OPW), **Thurles** (An Garda Síochána), **Roscommon Town** (Land Registry), **Tipperary Town** (Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform), **Edenderry** (Higher and Further Education Bodies), **Dungarvan** (Ordnance Survey Ireland) and **Enniscorthy** (An Bord Bia).

Other projects covered by the Decentralisation Programme are being advanced as quickly as possible having regard, inter alia, to the need to acquire suitable sites and the ability of the Departments and Offices concerned to provide detailed briefing of their accommodation requirements.

Buildings Completed and Occupied

	Location	Client	Number of Places
1	Longford	Irish Prison Service HQ	141
2	Sligo	Department of Social and Family Affairs	100

Tenders received and being evaluated.

	Location	Client	Number of Places
1	Roscommon	Property Registration Authority	230

Contracts placed and construction underway

	Location	Client	Number of Places
1	Athlone	Department of Education and Science HQ	110
2	Buncrana	Department of Social and Family Affairs	118
3	Clonakilty	Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and Bord Iascaigh Mhara	222
4	Killarney	Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism HQ	135
5	Newcastlewest	Revenue Commissioners	50
6	Trim	OPW HQ	333
7	Wexford	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government HQ	287

Tenders to be invited in first half of 2008

	Location	Client	Number of Places
1	Cavan	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources HQ	422
2	Claremorris	OPW	130
3	Curragh	Defence Forces HQ	335
4	Dungarvan	Ordnance Survey Ireland	199
5	Edenderry	HETAC, FETAC, NOAI	97
6	Enniscorthy	An Bord Bia	64
7	Fermoy	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	130
8	Thomastown	Health and Safety Authority	110
9	Macroom	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	100
10	Tipperary Town	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	186
11	Youghal	Valuation Office and Public Appointments Commission	220

Successful tenderer selected

	Location	Client	Number of Places
1	Newbridge	Department of Defence HQ	110
2	Carlow PPP	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment HQ	276
3	Mullingar PPP	Department of Education and Science HQ	321
4	Portlaoise	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food HQ	850
5	Knock Airport	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Refused by An Bórd Pleanála, new site being sought in Charlestown	183

Accommodation Available in Decentralisation Locations

Schedule of Temporary Advance Accommodation

	Location	Client	Number of Places
1	Portlaoise	D/Agriculture	250
2	Tipperary	D/Justice - Private Security Regulator	13
3	Furbo	D/CR&GA	10
4	Thurles	D/Justice - Garda Vetting Unit	40
5	Clonakilty	D/CM&NR	90
6	Sligo	D/SFA	18
7	Portarlington	D/Justice - Data Protection	22
8	Clifden	ADM/POBAIL	25
9	Roscommon	Land Registry	60
10	Newcastle West	Revenue	50
11	Knock	D/CR&GA	70
12	Thomastown	Health & Safety Authority	28

	Location	Client	Number of Places
13	Killarney	Arts, Sport & Tourism	80
14	Cavan	D/CM&NR	55
15	Limerick	Foreign Affairs	50
16	Thurles	D/Justice - Fines Office	70
17	Carlow	D/ETE	100
18	Athy	Revenue	70
19	Claremorris	OPW	30
20	Roscrea	Justice - Eq. Authority	22
21	Wexford	D/Environment	44
22	Dundalk	Sustainable Energy Ireland	30
23	Tipperary Town	Dept of Justice - INIS	50

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Accommodation Available in Decentralisation Locations

Schedule of Permanent Accommodation Solutions

1	Tullamore	D/Finance	135	Permanent space completed and occupied
2	Loughrea	D/Transport	50	Leased building
3	Ballina	Road Safety Authority	60	Leased building occupied
4	Longford	Prisons Service	130	Permanent Building constructed and occupied
5	Carrick-on-Shannon	D/SFA	186	Lease building occupied
6	Kilrush	Revenue	50	Leased building acquired and occupied
7	Listowel	Revenue	50	Leased building acquired and occupied
8	Navan	D/Justice - NPSRA	17	Space identified. Negotiations on Lease terms and fit-out are ongoing.
9	Navan	Revenue	100	Leased Building
10	Navan	Dept of Justice - Garda HR Unit	130	Leased Building
11	Sligo	Dept of Social & Family Affairs	83	Building extension to existing building occupied

OPW Decentralisation

The OPW Decentralisation Unit has continued to advance progress on the issues concerned with the decentralisation of OPW to Trim, (OPW HQ), Claremorris and Kanturk.

- The indicative time frame for the completion of the 3 OPW decentralised offices, as per the Decentralisation Implementation Group [DIG] report, are as follows:

Location	Construction Completion
Trim HQ	Q1 2009
Claremorris	2009
Kanturk	2009

Trim

- During the year 17 administrative Trim bound staff transferred from other Departments / Offices to OPW.
- The schedule of administrative staff in place for our new HQ in Trim is as follows:

Grade	Posts	No in Place
Principal Officer	10	7
Asst Principal Officer	26	19
Higher Executive Officer	42	42
Executive Officer	43	39
Staff Officer	9	6
Clerical Officer	40	26
Totals	170	139

The required balance of the administrative staffing compliment will join the OPW in 2008.

- Developments are awaited on the central negotiations between IMPACT and the Department of Finance pertaining to our professional & technical staff. At the end of 2007 some 58 staff were signed up for the new HQ. This represents 40% of the professional and technical cadre.
- Construction of the HQ building commenced and is progressing according to the target timeframe.
- An advance office in Trim is now being planned involving circa 30 posts with the move in early 2008.

Claremorris/Kanturk

- Work has also progressed on the verification of applicants on the Central Applications Facility (CAF) for these locations.
- The accommodation brief for both buildings is nearing completion.
- The advance office in Claremorris with some 30 staff commenced operations in September. The work units are

dealing with Visitor Services, GSA Publications and Project Management Services. This staffing complement includes the transfer of 18 new staff into OPW.

Staff transferred out to other decentralised locations

- A total of 28 staff [14 in 2007] have moved from OPW to join other decentralising organisations.
- There are 8 staff currently awaiting transfer from OPW who have signed an agreement to decentralise and a further 9 staff have been requested to formally confirm their interest in transferring.
- A further 26 OPW staff have also expressed an interest in decentralising and these await developments on their applications.

Staff Transferring Out of Dublin Posts

- Some 18 staff have left OPW to join Dublin based Departments / Offices.
- There are 7 staff currently awaiting transfer from OPW to Dublin jobs - The timing of the release of staff depends on agreement being reached on the transfer date of inbound CAF personnel.
- As agreed with Unions the Last In First Out option [LIFO] will be used to facilitate the filling of any unclaimed Dublin posts offered (i.e. where there is no volunteer presenting) to OPW personnel.

The decentralisation of OPW, which generates significant challenges, continues to be addressed as one of 'high priority'.

Casino Marino, Dublin



Operations Review 2007

Property Management

2007 Market Overview

The Dublin office rental market

The year 2007 saw the completion of some 161,000 square metres of new office space, which represented a small (c 2.5%) increase on the previous year. A significant amount of this new space was in Dublin 4, the inner urban fringe and also, in contrast to the previous year, in the suburbs. There was relatively little new space completed in Dublin 2, little more than 10% of the total.

The level of uptake of new space, at 276,000 square metres, was up approximately 10% on the 2006 level. Overall vacancy rates, (c. 13.4%), were largely unchanged from 2006.

There has been some evidence of modest rental growth, particularly in large modern, well-located offices. However, there were indications of a weakening in demand in the final quarter of 2007 and the prospects for 2008 are somewhat uncertain, being largely dependent on the performance of the economy over the coming year.

The Commissioners entered into a number of rental agreements in 2007, mainly to replace existing space which was no longer fit for its purpose and which will now be redeveloped. Among the larger acquisitions were George's

Street, for the Revenue Commissioners, Kings Inn House for the Department of Social and Family Affairs and premises in Capel Street for the Garda Ombudsman Commission.

Property Sales

Under the Office's Programme for the Transformation of State Assets, a concerted effort has been made in recent years to identify State properties, which are either being under utilised or surplus to requirements, with a view to their disposal. As part of this programme, the Office of Public Works in 2007 completed the successful disposal of some major property holdings in Dublin and throughout the country, for prices that were in line with market conditions. This orderly programme of rationalisation will continue as under utilised properties are identified and the portfolio is rationalised following decentralisation. In this way, the State is pursuing the optimum use of its property assets and extracting maximum value from the portfolio.

Rent Reviews

The OPW continued to actively manage the rent review programme for its leased properties. Where possible settlement terms were reached by agreement but in a number of cases where it was felt that a reasonable agreement was not forthcoming were referred to third party for determination. Overall settlements were achieved at modest increases, typically 10 to 12%.

New Leases 2007

COM-MENCE	EXPIRY	RENT-ABLE SqM	LEASE NAME	COUNTY	LOCATION	ANNUAL RENT	OCCUPANT 1
1-Jan-07	25-Dec-08	0	PARNELL CENTRE CAR PARK 2	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 01	59280	SOCIAL WELFARE
1-Jan-07	30-Nov-16	60.76	MACROOM BOWL ROAD SWO	CORK	MACROOM	11400	SOCIAL WELFARE
1-Jan-07	30-Sep-11	797.93	CLAREMORRIS TEMPORARY DECENTRALISATION OFFICE	MAYO	CLAREMORRIS	68712	OPW
1-Feb-07	31-Jan-12	0	LOUGHREA TRANS & RSA CARPARK	GALWAY	LOUGHREA	13500	TRANSPORT
1-Feb-07	31-Jan-32	1048	NAVAN ROAD ASHTOWN-GATE BK B	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 07	254401	JUSTICE
1-Feb-07	1-Feb-27	116	LOUGHREA CLONFERT HOUSE GROUND FLOOR	GALWAY	LOUGHREA	31225	TRANSPORT
1-Feb-07	1-Feb-27	360	LOUGHREA CLONFERT HOUSE 1ST FLOOR	GALWAY	LOUGHREA	56187.5	TRANSPORT
1-Feb-07	1-Feb-27	332	LOUGHREA CLONFERT HOUSE 2ND FLOOR	GALWAY	LOUGHREA	51837.5	TRANSPORT
12-Feb-07	25-Dec-08	0	NAVAN CAR PARK	MEATH	NAVAN	5000	SOCIAL WELFARE
16-Feb-07	16-Jan-16	350	WATERFORD RSA TEST CENTRE	WATERFORD	WATERFORD	40000	TRANSPORT
26-Feb-07	5-Jun-11	0	BALLINA RSA UNIT 2	MAYO	BALLINA	5000	TRANSPORT
1-Mar-07	28-Feb-12	1235.53	THURLES GARDA FINES OFFICE	TIPPERARY	THURLES	186186	JUSTICE
1-Mar-07	28-Feb-11	1092	BUNCRANA GARDA STATION TEMPORARY	DONEGAL	BUNCRANA	115000	GARDA
12-Mar-07	11-Mar-10	381.58	SCURLOCKSTOWN UNIT 1 OPW	MEATH	TRIM	67752.06	OPW
1-Apr-07	29-Feb-12	0	LYON/FINDLATER HOUSE GROUND FLOOR	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 01	345000	IRISH AID
2-Apr-07	1-Apr-27	1247.14	TULLAMORE SWO CASTLE BUILDING	OFFALY	TULLAMORE	204044.8	SOCIAL WELFARE
4-Apr-07	25-Dec-08	0	BLOOMFIELD CAR PPARK DUN LAOIRE	DUBLIN	DUN LAOGHAIRE	3060	PROBATION SERVICE
1-May-07	30-Apr-08	853.69	LIMERICK TEMPORARY DECENTRALISATION OFFICE	LIMERICK	LIMERICK	128694	FOREIGN AFFAIRS
21-May-07	20-Apr-17	311	LOUGH ARROW FIELD STUDY	SLIGO	SLIGO	33430	ENVIRONMENT
1-Jun-07	31-May-11	0	CAVAN TEMP DCMNR (GROUND FLOOR)	CAVAN	CAVAN	29920	MARINE
1-Jun-07	31-May-09	0	CLONAKILTY TEMPORARY OFFICE SFFA	CORK	CLONAKILTY	118910	AGRICULTURE
6-Jun-07	5-Jun-27	1806	CARLOW TEMP DECENTRALISATION OFFICE	CARLOW	CARLOW	369436	ENTERPRISE, TRADE & EMPLOYMENT
12-Jun-07	12-Jun-27	805.54	BLANCH PROBATION SERVICE GROUND FLOOR	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 15	157907	PROBATION SERVICE
12-Jun-07	12-Jun-27	805.57	BLANCH EDUCATION OFFICE 1ST FLOOR	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 15	157907	EDUCATION
1-Jul-07	1-Jul-27	0	REVENUE GEORGES ST SOUTH	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 02	1827522	REVENUE
1-Jul-07	30-Jun-10	0	WEXFORD TEMPORARY DECENTRALISATION OFFICE	WEXFORD	WEXFORD	75000	ENVIRONMENT
5-Jul-07	4-Jul-32	585.29	ENTERPRISE HOUSE KILRUSH	CLARE	KILRUSH	21262.5	ENTERPRISE, TRADE & EMPLOYMENT
13-Jul-07	13-Apr-10	0	CASTLETOWN HOUSE LICENCE	KILDARE	CELBRIDGE	66000	OPW
1-Aug-07	31-Jul-27	1140	LISTOWEL MILL LANE REVENUE.	KERRY	LISTOWEL	244923.7	REVENUE
1-Aug-07	31-Jul-32	722.6	BEULAH BUILDING SLIGO	SLIGO	SLIGO	124448	EDUCATION
28-Aug-07	24-Sep-32	0	BOND ROAD REVENUE WAREHOUSE	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 01	733092	REVENUE

COM-MENCE	EXPIRY	RENT-ABLE SqM	LEASE NAME	COUNTY	LOCATION	ANNUAL RENT	OCCUPANT 1
1-Sep-07	31-Aug-11	339.84	MULLINGAR WAREHOUSE 2	WESTMEATH	MULLINGAR	16278.12	EDUCATION
2-Sep-07	1-Dec-08	0	ATHLONE PROBATION CAR PARK	WESTMEATH	ATHLONE	840	PROBATION SERVICE
1-Oct-07	30-Jun-17	264.02	CENTRE PARK HOUSE GROUND FLOOR	CORK	CORK	48000	N.E.R.A.
1-Nov-07	31-Oct-14	0	ATHY REVENUE TEMPORARY DECENTRALISATION OFFICE	KILDARE	ATHY	223672	REVENUE
1-Nov-07	30-Apr-17	148.42	KILDARE TOWN STATION ROAD	KILDARE	KILDARE	20761	ENVIRONMENT
1-Nov-07	1-Aug-17	0	CENTRE PARK HOUSE CARPARK	CORK	CORK	11700	N.E.R.A.
22-Nov-07	21-Nov-27	5400	LETTERKENNY EDUCATION OFFICE	DONEGAL	LETTERKENNY	41896	EDUCATION
30-Nov-07	29-Nov-12	405.52	PORTLAOISE AGRICULTURE OFFICE UPPER GROUND & 1ST FLOOR	LAOIS	PORTLAOISE	75000	AGRICULTURE
5-Dec-07	4-Jun-12	20	FERMOY EDUCATION OFFICE	CORK	FERMOY	3500	EDUCATION
15-Dec-07	14-Dec-27	2744.38	NAVAN ATHLUMNEY HOUSE	MEATH	NAVAN	439921	JUSTICE
21-Dec-07	20-Dec-32	774	KINGS INN HSE PART GROUND FLOOR	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 01	208275	SOCIAL WELFARE
21-Dec-07	20-Dec-32	1967	KINGS INN HSE GROUND, 1ST & 2ND FLOORS	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 01	558200	SOCIAL WELFARE
25-Dec-07	24-Jan-28	2672.63	NAVAN REVENUE ABBEY MALL	MEATH	NAVAN	575360	REVENUE

Lease Surrenders 2007

llease_code	DISPOSAL DATE	LEASE NAME	COUNTY	LOCATION	ANNUAL RENT	LEASE TYPE
LSE0059	11-Jan-07	BALTINGLASS WEAVERS SQUARE	WICKLOW	BALTINGLASS	3900	Lease from Landlord
LSE0568	28-Feb-07	NEW INN GARDA STATION	GALWAY	NEW INN	5078.95	Lease from Landlord
LSE0664	31-May-07	SLIGO TEELING ST 14	SLIGO	SLIGO	21000	Lease from Landlord
LSE0755	30-Jun-07	WATERFORD THE QUAY 108	WATERFORD	WATERFORD	23939.64	Lease from Landlord
LSE0474	10-Jul-07	LIMERICK MUNCHIN HOUSE GROUND	LIMERICK	LIMERICK	5688.43	Lease from Landlord
LSE0473	10-Jul-07	LIMERICK MUNCHIN HOUSE 1st & 2nd FLOORS	LIMERICK	LIMERICK	62877.43	Lease from Landlord
LSE0472	10-Jul-07	LIMERICK MUNCHIN HOUSE FLOOR 3	LIMERICK	LIMERICK	36822.4	Lease from Landlord
LSE1068	31-Oct-07	NAVAN NEPS CARPARK	MEATH	NAVAN	6000	Car Parking
LSE1066	14-Dec-07	NAVAN NEPS OFFICE	MEATH	NAVAN	55000	Lease from Landlord
LSE0245	25-Dec-07	DONARD GARDA STATION	WICKLOW	DONARD	9523.04	Lease from Landlord
LSE0220	25-Dec-07	CORK SOUTH MALL 54	CORK	CORK	28569.11	Lease from Landlord
LSE0579	25-Dec-07	O'CONNELL ST 11	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 01	7364.48	Lease from Landlord
LSE1264	30-Nov-07	NAVAN EDUCATION OFFICE	NAVAN	MEATH	285.02	Lease from Landlord

Property Purchases 2007

DATE ACQUIRED	COUNTY	LOCATION	NAME	PURCHASE COST
11-Jan-07	TIPPERARY	TIPPERARY	Tipperary Decentral Site	€1,465,000.00
21-Jan-07	MAYO	CLAREMORRIS	Claremorris Decentral Site	€2,500,000.00
12-Feb-07	OFFALY	EDENDERRY	Edenderry Decentral Site	€1,500,000.00
1-Mar-07	LOUTH	DROGHEDA	Drogheda Decentralisation	€2,325,000.00
12-Mar-07	ROSCOMMON	ROSCOMMON	Roscommon Government Office	€3,000,000.00
26-Jun-07	DUBLIN	DUBLIN 15	Damastown Warehouse	€5,171,500.00
5-Sep-07	LAOIS	PORTLAOISE	Portlaoise Decentral Site	€1,027,686.00
9-Oct-07	LOUTH	DROGHEDA	Drogheda Decentralised Site PlotS A, B, C & D	€10,075,000.00
20-Dec-07	MEATH	ENFIELD	Enfield Garda Station	€2,786,425.00

Disposals 2007

Building	Price	Closing Date
Longford former GS, Co Longford - Disposal	€2,000,000.00	26/Jan
Greencastle Coastguard Station Cottages that were disposed of not registered properly	€4,445.00	20/Feb
Islandbridge	€320,922.00	24/Apr
Ballyshannon	€2,500.00	14/Mar
Goresbridge Garda House	€12,680.18	10/Aug
Heath	€1,900.41	17/Aug
Mouth of Boyne C/Guard Station Cottage 2	€9,523.00	04/Oct
Fermoy former Military Hospital	€879,187.26	05/Nov
Land adjacent to RHK	€500,056.38	07/Dec
	€3,731,214.23	

School Site Acquisition Programme

During 2007 the School Site Acquisitions Unit continued to manage a rolling programme of acquisitions on behalf of the Department of Education & Science; the programme was made up of

50 cases and covered 21 counties that included urban, rural and rapidly developing areas. The Commissioners acquire sites for a diversity of educational facilities i.e., National Schools, Special Schools, Educate Together National Schools, Gaelscoileanna, Post Primary Schools, Post Primary Community Schools and Gaelcholaiste.

During 2007, sites were acquired for the following schools at

a cost of approximately €16 million: -

- Co Roscommon Rathcroghan National School
- Co Waterford Tramore Amalgamation Secondary School
- Co Mayo Gaelscoil Uileog de Burca/Claremorris
- Co Meath GS Thulach na nOg/Dunboyne
- Co Dublin Archbishop McQuaid/Loughlinstown
- Co Galway Kilimor National School
- Co Louth Gaelscoil Le Cheile/Drogheda
- Co Meath Athboy Community School
- Co Leitrim Ballinamore Community School
- Co Kilkenny Thomastown National School

By the end of the year many other cases were progressed to an advanced stage, subject to Contract, and can be finalized in early 2008 depending on the Department of Education & Science approval.



Site for Gaelscoil Thulach na nOg, Dunboyne

Facilities and Event Management

Dublin Castle

Demand for and use of the conference and event facilities at Dublin Castle continued at a very high level in 2007. In what was another very successful year a total of 404 events took place with a total attendance at these events of approximately 64,000.

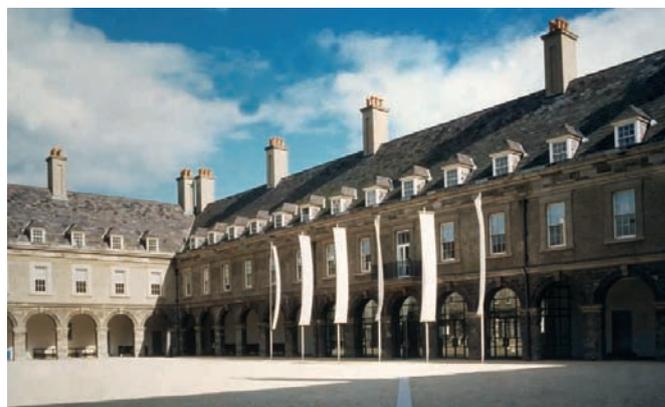
The number of visitors taking guided tours of the State Apartments increased substantially in 2007. A total of 7,500 guided tours were given involving 164,500 visitors an increase of 25% and 20% respectively on the 2006 numbers..

The provision of event management services to the State is becoming an increasingly important part of the Dublin Castle management team's role. This area of activity has shown significant growth in the last couple of years and 170 events were serviced at a variety of venues throughout the country in 2007



The Royal Hospital Kilmainham

The OPW Facilities and Event Management Unit support, in association with the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), the conference and event management operations at this prestigious venue. In 2007 the RHK hosted 74 events with a total attendance of 18,300.



Farmleigh

Farmleigh enjoyed another successful year in its role as the official State guest house. The important State visits hosted at the house during 2007 included residential stays by Heads of State and leading dignitaries from Poland, Slovakia, USA, Belgium and Finland.

In all, some 113 high level Government events took place in Farmleigh in 2007 attended by 4,625 delegates.

The continued success of Farmleigh's public access

programme was evident in 2007 with almost 177,000 visitors attending the various open days, guided tours and free public events from March through to December.



Áras an Uachtarain

The Facilities and Event Management Unit co-ordinates and manages a range of property, housekeeping and catering services at Áras an Uachtarain on behalf of the Office of the President. 2007 was a very busy year with visits of Heads of State and other dignitaries, public tours of the House and other events held at the Áras resulting in 16,621 visitors in total being catered for.



Castletown House

A significant programme of conservation and improvement works was carried out at Castletown House in 2007. Visitor services in the west Wing of the House were upgraded to modern standards with new kitchen and restaurant facilities. In the main House much detailed and meticulous work was carried out to enhance the historic interior. Further progress was also made on the general upgrading of the demesne grounds and landscape with improved access and traffic management. The refurbishment of the lodges at the Celbridge Gate in partnership with the Irish Landmark Trust was also completed in 2007.

The aim of the investment at Castletown is to develop and promote the House and grounds as a significant tourist

heritage attraction and event venue having a mix of uses including State, corporate, cultural and public.



Kilkenny Castle

Kilkenny Castle had a very successful year in 2007 with almost 183,000 visitors. There was strong demand also for use of the facilities at the Parade Tower conference venue.

Kilkenny Castle was brought under the management of the Facilities and Event Management Unit in 2007. The management focus in the near term will be to build on the Castle's status as one of the country's leading heritage attractions and to develop more fully its potential as a significant regional cultural and event venue.



General Facilities and Event Management Services

Unit oversees the provision, through contracted service providers, of a full range of support services at properties such as the new Government Laboratories at Backweston, Co. Kildare, the Northside Civic Centre in Coolock, Dublin and the Government Offices in Roscommon. The objective is to ensure the provision of a professional, cost-effective and best practice facilities management service to the client Departments.

Property Maintenance

Property Maintenance Services business unit comprises, in addition to its Head office, eight Regional and seven District offices around the country, Building Maintenance Services in Dublin, Cork and the Limerick workshops, Furniture Branch, Health & Safety Policy Unit and the Asbestos Removal & Reinstatement Unit. The Unit responds to maintenance requests for state owned property from OPW, Government Departments and State Agencies – some of this work is funded through OPW Vote and, where works are being funded by the client, the relevant Government Department or state agency is billed by Property Maintenance. In addition, the Unit undertakes minor capital works, including Garda works, office fit-outs & refurbishments which are funded via the OPW vote or money lodged with OPW by Departments and Agencies. The Unit also handles the billing for the Mechanical & Electrical Services but has no input in to the M&E maintenance policies, procedures or protocols.

The capital throughput in the business unit in 2007 was approximately €156m. This is broken down as follows:

- Property Maintenance and Regional Offices maintenance €7,200,000-00
- Building Maintenance Service €17,900,000-00
- Minor Capital works including minor Garda (subhead E) €47,500,000-00
- General Maintenance Client Accounts ('Q' a/cs) €12,300,000-00
- Agency work done by OPW for Departments (SWAs) €12,500,000-00

- Asbestos & Reinstatement €42,500,000-00
- Health & Safety Unit €250,000-00
- Furniture Branch €16,000,000-00

Property Maintenance

The construction works break down into two main categories; Minor works (capital expenditure) and maintenance works (current expenditure). In relation to minor capital works, this ranges from minor office fitouts to larger scale refurbishments and is delivered across a wide range of clients.

Works carried out to Garda stations are done on the basis of priorities set by Garda Housing. A summary of these works progressed in 2007 is outlined in Table 1 next page.

Maintenance work for Dublin was previously carried out by the Building Maintenance Services, with the Regional and district offices catering for accommodation throughout the country. A new maintenance arrangement was introduced in 2007 to cater for outsourced maintenance works in Dublin.

Measured Term Maintenance

During 2007, the OPW successfully introduced a Measured Term Contract for the provision of property maintenance services in the Dublin area. In this context, a Measured Term Contract is an arrangement whereby a contractor undertakes to carry out a series of works orders, over a period of years, within a defined geographical area and where the work is subsequently measured and valued at rates contained in a pre-priced Schedule of Rates.

Table 1 Garda Minor Works Programme

Completed	On Site	Feasibility / Sketch Scheme
Ashbourne Garda Station, Co. Meath Provision of Office Accommodation for Traffic Corps.	Carrickmacross Garda Station, Co. Monaghan - Phase 2: Cell Refurbishment	Ballyhaunis Garda Station, Co. Mayo Sketch Scheme being developed for proposed Office Accommodation for Traffic Corps.
Bailieboro Garda Station, Co. Cavan Provision of Office Accommodation for Traffic Corps.	GHQ Harcourt Square, Mapping Section - Fit-out of Office Accommodation for Garda Mapping Section	Ballyshannon Garda Station, Co. Donegal Accommodation for Traffic Corps
Banagher Garda Station, Co. Offaly Construction of Extension	GHQ Phoenix Park, Block J Fit-out and Installation of Central Monitoring System	Barraduff Garda Station, Co. Kerry Proposed Refurbishment
Cahir Garda Station, Co. Tipperary Conversion of Garages into Office Accommodation for Garda Traffic Corps	Granard Garda Station, Co Longford Construction of Extension, Conversion of Official Accommodation into Office Accommodation and Refurbishment of existing Station	Blanchardstown Garda Station, Dublin Provision of Perimeter Fence
Crossmolina Garda Station, Co. Mayo Complete Refurbishment of Station and Official Accommodation	Gurranabraher Garda Station, Co. Cork Construction of Extension and Refurbishment Works	Carlow Garda Station, Co. Carlow Proposed Extension
GHQ Phoenix Park, Training Facility Fit-out of Garda Training Facilities in Garda Headquarters	Mullingar Garda Station, Co. Westmeath - Construction of Three Storey Extension	Castledermot Garda Station, Co. Kildare Proposed Extensive Refurbishment Works
Gorey Garda Station, Co. Wexford Complete Electrical Re-wire		Castlegregory Garda Station, Co. Kerry Proposed Refurbishment Works
Kerrykeel Garda Station, Co. Donegal Complete Refurbishment of Station		Clonmany Garda Station, Co. Donegal Proposed Refurbishment Works
Killaloe Garda Station, Co. Clare Construction of Extension for Office Accommodation for Garda Traffic Corps		Craughwell Garda Station, Co. Galway Proposed Extensive Refurbishment Works
Kilronan Garda Station, Co. Galway Complete Electrical Re-wire		Dunmanway Garda Station, Co. Cork - Construction of Extension and Refurbishment Works
Monasterevin Garda Station, Co. Kildare - Reinstatement Works following Fire Damage		GHQ Harcourt Sq., Emergency Response Unit Fit-out of Offices for Garda Emergency Response Unit
Navan Garda Station, Co. Meath Cell Refurbishment		GHQ Phoenix Park, I.T. Block - Works to the sewerage system and flood prevention works
Swords Garda Station, Dublin Provision of new Male & Female Changing Facilities and New Conference Room		GHQ Phoenix Park, Technical Bureau Proposed refurbishment of main stairwells
		Kilmainham Garda Station, Dublin Proposed Refurbishment Works
		Letterkenny Garda Station, Co, Donegal - Construction of Prisoner Cusody Suite
		Ronanstown Garda Station, Dublin Proposed Refurbishment
		Tuam Garda Station, Co. Galway Accommodation for Traffic Corps
		Virginia Garda Station, Co. Cavan Proposed Refurbishment Works

Following a trial period during quarters one and two of 2007, the Measured Term contract went live in Dublin South in July 2007. Its operation in Dublin South was reviewed in January 2008 prior to rollout to Dublin North in February 2008. The existing Help Desk, which has formerly been used for Mechanical & Electrical support, has been extended and is now providing a single point of contact to OPW clients within the Dublin area. It is proposed to roll out other similar drawdown contracts to the regions when the Dublin contracts have bedded in, with the Cork area being a possible second location.

The measured term method of contracting was chosen for the following benefits;

- Cost of work can be evaluated before a works order is raised as all items have already been priced in the tender documentation.
- A large number of works orders can be generated under one contract with very little documentation needed.
- Contractor's response to a works order is immediate as there is no need for contract preparation etc.
- Considerable savings in time and resources within OPW.
- The contract facilitates programmed work as the contractor can fit in programmed work in a building with call-outs as they occur.
- Measured Term Contracts provide very good value for money. This value is clearly demonstrable as the contract percentages used to value work are the result of a competitive tender process.
- It is a tried and tested method of procuring maintenance and new works, both planned and reactive. The system is used extensively in Great Britain, including the Construction Service in Northern Ireland.
- Measured Term Contracts can be easily audited to show that accountability and value for money is being achieved.

Asbestos Removal & Reinstatement Unit

The year 2007 saw the most extensive asbestos removal programme carried out to date. In all approximately 650 individual contracts were placed involving a wide range of asbestos containing materials such as asbestos cement roof sheets and slates, ceiling and floor tiles, boiler seals and flues, pipe lagging etc. Contracts also included re-instatement works sometimes involving the complete re-roofing of buildings and ancillary works; mechanical and electrical installation and other major refurbishments following the removal of asbestos.

Total expenditure on asbestos removal and reinstatement in

schools, Garda stations, Government offices and other public buildings in 2007 amounted to €42.5m.

2007 also saw the completion of the asbestos surveys of approximately 4,100 schools, and the placing of the contract for completion of the asbestos and radon surveys of 800 Garda buildings.

During 2007 the unit proceeded with the preparation of procedural documentation for ISO accreditation and the Visibility Accounts System. A value for money and quality of service audit, relating to consultants and contractors involved on the programme was initiated.

Furniture Division

Furniture Division provides Government/Public Service Departments with procurement services based on the principles of value for money, quality, suitability and compliance with statutory requirements including EU, Health & Safety and environmental issues covering a wide range of furniture, floor covering and furnishing products.

Furniture Branch has drawdown contracts in place for the provision of office furniture and floor covering to various government Departments.

The Furniture Workshop completed furniture fit outs for a number of Government offices in 2007, including CRIO, Castle View and the state warehouse for the Office of the Revenue Commissioners. The Division was involved in the fitting out of the Supreme Court, Dail library, Reading Room and it continues to service the State Exams with the supply of desks and chairs. The branch was also involved with a number of fit outs under the decentralisation programme including Carlow, Limerick, Longford and Wexford.

Building Maintenance Service

Following the full introduction of the Measured Term Contracts in the Dublin region, BMS will withdraw from routine maintenance in modern offices and will focus on the conservation of heritage and historic buildings in the Dublin Area. Its role is being radically altered from a reactive in-house service to a proactive unit operating from planned work programmes for the heritage buildings under its care. This change in emphasis sees BMS adopting a new role of managing the maintenance of these properties.

There have been great strides made in the area of Health & Safety and new protocols are in place, which have been embraced by staff. BMS started a programme of fitting 'Fall Arrest' systems to the roofs of the heritage properties in the Dublin area. All plant and equipment is tested and certified once a year.

Annual accounts have been produced for BMS over the last three years. Each year they have produced a profit on the chargeable works of approximately 9% - 11.6%.

Project Management Services

Project Management Services (PMS), with the assistance of the OPW's Architectural and Engineering Services and such private sector professional disciplines as may be required, manages the delivery of new construction, refurbishment, conservation and major maintenance projects on behalf of the OPW and its clients and customers.

Project Management Services articulates, in detail, the clients or customers brief of requirements in order to assist in delivering these on time, within budget and to the highest architectural and engineering standards, in compliance with Government and EU Procurement procedures.

Delivery of clients and customers requirements involves managing the development of tender documentation, assembly and appointment of the design team, securing necessary planning permission, selecting contractors, overseeing progress on site and managing the costs of the projects.

OPW's client base includes the following: Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, the Department of Social and Family Affairs, the Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Defence, Department of Transport, the Department of Environment and Local Government, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Health, the Oireachtas, the Revenue Commissioners, the Irish Coastguard, Dublin Zoo and of course ourselves.

Leinster House / Oireachtas Programme

Expenditure in 2007 was approximately €2.8 million.

Phase one of Fire Safety and Prevention works was completed.

Projects at various stages of progression include Phase 2 of Fire Safety and Prevention Works, Merrion Street Pavillion, the Museum Link, development of an underground Energy Centre and underground car park.

Large Building Projects

OPW has taken on a wide variety of works at the Garda Headquarters in Phoenix Park including the Crime and Security Branch, New Ballistics Building, Crime and Prevention Unit, and Reception Pavillion. Projects completed in 2007 include the Officers Club external refurbishment, the School of Music extension, the new Ballistics Building.

The Garda Centre of Excellence at Templemore Garda College is also at design stage

Dublin Zoo

A 5-year programme of Capital Development Work commenced in 2006. The Elephant Enclosure project was completed last year and the reconstruction of Haughton House is due for completion this year. Projects scheduled for commencement in 2008 are the upgrade of African plains fence and boundary walls, the upgrading of exhibits on African plains site and the veterinary clinic with ancillary works.

Coast Guard Stations

The construction of a station at Toe Head is on schedule for completion. Projects in the planning stages include Crosshaven, Doolin, Kinsale and Goleen.

Others

Projects due on site this year include the refurbishment of offices for the Environmental Protection Agency in Wexford.

Tenders are to be sought for the Thomastown Depot project for Waterways Ireland and for the New OPW Workshop in Ballina.

Decentralisation Programme

Completed	IN PROGRESS (On Site)	Planning Permission /Tender Stage etc	IN PLANNING
Irish Prison Service, Longford –Fit-out	Department of Social & Family Affairs, Buncrana, Co Donegal (Including Garda District Headquarters)		
Sligo – Extension to Pension Services Office (Department of Social & Family Affairs)	Department of C.R. & G.A. Furbo, Galway		
OPW Claremorris (advance office)	Private Security Authority, Tipperary		

Department of Social and Family Affairs Programme

Expenditure in 2007 was approximately €1 million.

Completed	In Progress	Planning Permission/Tender Stage	In Planning
Bray – Construction of new Local Office	Ballymun – Construction of new Local Office		Ballina (Co Mayo) – new local office
Hynes Building, Galway – fit- out of ground and 1 st floors	Buncrana Co Donegal (Being done in conjunction with Decentralisation project.)		Cavan
			Killarney
			Kings Inn House, Dublin
			Tullamore

Office Rationalisation Programme

Expenditure in 2007 was €12 million approximately.

Completed	On Site	Planning Permission / Tender Stage etc	In Planning
Department of Agriculture & Food, Navan	Dept. of Agriculture & Food – New District Veterinary Office, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim	Ashtown Gate – New Accommodation for an Garda Siochana.	Department of Social and Family Affairs, Castlebar
Department of Environment & Local Government-new entrance way & other works	Leinster House – An Siopa, Kildare Street	Department of Foreign Affairs, Iveagh House – refurbishment works, Phase D	Government Offices – Thurles
Department of Health – GRO Irish Life Centre, Dublin	Probation & Welfare Service – St. Nicholas Church, Cork – Refurbishment	Department of Transport - Dundalk	Land Registry – Church Street/Hammond Lane
Dept. of Transport – Driving Test Centre, Finglas, Dublin	Public Office for Development Cooperation Ireland - Ireland Aid O'Connell Street, Dublin (SWA)	Education and Science Blanchardstown	Leinster House – Energy Centre
Leinster House – Coffee Dock	Revenue Commissioners - Ennis	Education and Science Sligo (includes Probation and Welfare)	Leinster House – Merrion Street Pavilion
Leinster House – Fire Safety and Prevention Works Phase 1	Revenue Commissioners – Galway	Financial Directorate – Ashtown Gate	Leinster House – Museum Link
<i>Probation and Welfare, St. Nicholas Church Cork</i>	Revenue Museum Dublin Castle	Leinster House – Fire Safety and Prevention Works Phase 2	Property Registration Authority (Land Registry) Design/Build
Property Registration Authority (Land Registry) Santry – Warehouse Facility		New OPW Workshop, Ballina, Co. Mayo	
Revenue Commissioners – Georges Street, Dublin		Probation & Welfare Blanchardstown	
		Probation & Welfare Sligo	
		Revenue Commissioners – Castlebar	
		Revenue Commissioners – Stamping Building - Toilets	

Garda Building Programme

Feasibility / Site Acquisition / Sketch Scheme	Planning Permission /Tender Stage etc	ON SITE	Completed
Ballinahassig	Ballincollig	Ballymun	Castlerea
Ballyvarry	Ballymote	Buncrana	New Vehicle Pound Tallaght
Bangor Erris	Castleisland	Claremorris	Oranmore
Birr	Dromad	Finglas	Schull
Carndonagh	Easkey	Irishtown	Trim
Carrigtwohill	Elphin	Leixlip	
Carrigtwohill	Kevin Street Dublin		
Castletown	Kil O'Grange		
Doon			
Dundrum			
Enfield			
Galway New Divisional HQ			
Henry St. Limerick			
Kilconnell			
Kilfinane			
Lettermore			
Maam			
Mountjoy/Fitzgibbon Street Amalgamation			
Portlaoise			
Rearcross			
Spiddal			
Swords			
Tallaght			
Tallaght			
Tralee			
Wexford			
Athlone			
Ballimore Eustate			
Clonmel			
Donegal			
Dunlavin			
Dunmanway			
Ferns			
Glanmire			
Gorey			
Kilbeggan			
Letterkenny			
Shantonagh, Co. Monaghan			
Sligo			
Terryglass			

Courts Services Programme.

Completed	In progress	Planning Permission/ Tender Stage etc	In Planning
Bow Street Courthouse	Criminal Court Complex – Public Private Partnership	Kilkenny Courthouse	Ballina Courthouse
Bray – Construction of new Courthouse	Thurles Courthouse	Manorhamilton Courthouse	Boyle Courthouse
Dolphin House	Blanchardstown Courthouse	Monaghan Courthouse - refurbishment	Clonakilty Courthouse
Longford Courthouse		Swinford Courthouse	Dun Laoghaire Courthouse
Nenagh Courthouse			Ennistymon Courthouse
Tullamore Courthouse			Galway City Courthouse
			Killarney Courthouse
			Letterkenny
			Mullingar Courthouse
			Roscommon Courthouse
			Tralee Courthouse
			Wexford Courthouse
			Wicklow
			Youghal Courthouse
			Four Courts Control Room
			Ballinamore
			Birr
			Carndonagh
			Cashel
			Macroom
			New Ross

Irish Prison Service Programme

Completed	In progress	Planning Permission/ Tender Stage etc	In Planning
	Irish Prison Service – Portlaoise Prison C Block		

Cultural Institutions / Heritage Properties / Sundry Works

Completed	On Site	Pre-Tender	In Development
National Gallery of Ireland, New Gallery Fit Out	Áras an Uachtaráin, Turner Peach Houses Restoration	National Museum of Ireland, New Central Building	National Museum of Ireland, Natural History Museum Extension and Refurbishment
	National Gallery of Ireland, 5 South Leinster Street Refurbishment		National Gallery of Ireland, Historic Buildings Refurbishment
	National Gallery of Ireland, Millennium Wing Bookshop Refit		Áras an Uachtaráin, Communications Initiative Project
	Farmleigh Estate, Carpark and Access Road		National Museum of Ireland, New Energy Centre
	Birr Castle Demesne, Telescope Recommissioning		National Gallery of Ireland, Basement Picture Store Fit Out
Muckross House Universal Access	Ballycroy Visitor Centre	Clara Bog Visitor Centre	National Library New Repository
Mayo National Park Staff HQ, Lagduff	Potumna Castle Upgrade of Accommodation & Refurbishment of Courtyard	Botanic Gardens Teak House	Botanic Gardens Cactus, Lily & Fern Houses New Ancillary Building
National Library Flight of the Earls Exhibition	St. Endas Pearse Museum Refurbishment	National Library Re-cabling and Improvement Works to Front Entrance	St. Endas Pearse Museum Refurbishment of Gate Lodge
National Library Refurbishment Works	Theatre Royal, Wexford Redevelopment		Rathfarnham Castle Universal Access
	New Heritage Council Headquarters in Kilkenny	Fire, Security and Gallery Lighting project in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham	
	Renovation of Seminar Room in Marsh's Library	External Lighting and Signage Project in the National Concert Hall	
	Castletown House – Security/Perimeter Fencing	Provision of Off-Site Storage for Royal Hospital Kilmainham	

Special Projects Unit.

Central Veterinary Research Farm at Longtown Farm, Clane, Co. Kildare. Construction commenced in November 2007 and is scheduled for completion in October '08.

Construction of new **6,050m² office accommodation** for 250 staff of the Department of Agriculture & Food at **Backweston, Co. Kildare**, continued throughout 2007 and is expected to be completed in April 2008.

The **new office development** of over 4,000m² for the Department of Finance at **7-9 Merrion Row/Military Billets** i.e., the site of the former National Museum building adjoining the Huguenot Cemetery on Merrion Row and the Military Billets on the South Road of Government Buildings, was completed in December 2007. The landmark 6-storey over basement structure - linking, *via* a tunnel under the South Road, the Billets with Government Buildings - is currently being fitted out and full occupation is expected by March 2008.

Completion of the **redevelopment of the Assay Office in Dublin Castle** is expected by end-February 2008. The Assay Office will move from its temporary premises in Ship Street, thus enabling the Company of Goldsmiths - the last of the City Guilds - to continue the business, for which they received their Royal Charter from Charles 1 on 22nd December 1637, in modern facilities. The Assay Office has operated from Dublin Castle since 1925. The total floor area of the proposed development is 616m².

Alterations to the **East Gate of the RHK** at Military Road were completed early in 2007 and now provide a safer entrance to IMMA at the RHK for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic with separate entry and exit vehicular gates and a pedestrian gate on each side.

National Conference Centre (NCC). Contract award of this complex Public Private Partnership (PPP) project occurred in April 2007. Construction of the NCC has commenced and it is scheduled to open on the 1st September 2010.

Mountjoy Prison Redevelopment. OPW, on behalf of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, has appointed a Design Team to seek Planning Permission for the redevelopment of the site aimed at optimising its use and maximising its value. Submission of a Planning Application must await the completion of a Local Area Plan by Dublin City Council – expected by- end March, 2008.

National Concert Hall. Following a Government Decision dated 12 April 2006 it was agreed that the NDFA and OPW should jointly procure the NCH *via* a Public Private Partnership arrangement. In that regard, OPW was tasked

with managing and overseeing the procurement process to the stage where the Public Service Benchmark would be established with the NDFA assuming the OPW role thereafter. NDFA will become responsible for procurement of the Project from OJEU Notice through to service commencement at which point it will hand the project over to DAST.

In June 2007, Mc Cann Fitzgerald (McCF) were appointed as Legal Advisers to the process and in November 2007, Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd., were appointed as Technical Advisors (a Multi-Disciplinary firm) to assist in the review of the NCH Project Accommodation Brief completed by OPW, preparation of the Output Specification and updated Project Brief, including preparation of capital, operating and lifecycle costs for input into the Public Sector Benchmark (PSB) and for other project budgeting purposes. Jacobs will also provide project management services in connection with the coordination of inputs from expert technical consultants (e.g. lighting, acoustics, theatre design etc.) to be appointed separately by OPW. Competitions for the appointment of the acoustics and theatre design consultants were well advanced by year end.

Abbey Theatre. The Government decided to procure a new Abbey Theatre by means of an International Design Competition and to develop the new building by way of a PPP, at a site within the Dublin Docklands Development area (George's Dock). OPW will be the promoters of the Competition which will be organised by the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (in conjunction with OPW). The Competition is expected to be launched in early 2008. Procedural arrangements for the new Abbey Theatre will be the same as for the NCH i.e., a joint OPW/NDFA effort. As with the NCH, a number of advisers have been appointed to assist in the process.

The Unit continued its Technical Advisory service to the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism (DAST) on the **redevelopment of Lansdowne Road** into a 50,000 all-seater Stadium under the joint sponsorship of the IRFU and FAI. The Unit continues to liaise closely with the joint venture Company, Lansdowne Road Stadium Development Ltd., (LRSDC) - established by the FAI and IRFU to procure the redevelopment - and DAST in the process. The outcome of the Oral Hearing convened by An Bord Pleanála on foot of the objections lodged to the Planning Permission for the development facilitated commencement of the project in 2007. Demolition and substructure works were virtually completed and the main contract placed and underway by year end. Construction of a platform over the railway and railway underpasses which necessitated closure of the rail line were completed over the August and October Bank Holiday week-ends in 2007.

Sports Campus at Abbotstown. The Campus is to include medical, research and training support for elite athlete development plus administrative facilities for the smaller sports bodies, in addition to a range of other facilities including pitches and training grounds. The Campus at Abbotstown, Dublin 15 is being procured by the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA) – formerly Campus and Stadium Ireland Development Ltd. (CSID). OPW's role in relation to the Project is to act as Technical Advisors to DAST/NSCDA and in this regard, SPU and AS3 represented OPW in the selection process for Project Management and Design Teams to implement Phase 1 of the Campus by NSCDA and formal contracts were being finalised by NSCDA at year end.

SPU completed a **Planning Study of the Abbotstown lands for Fingal County Council.** The Study was adopted by Fingal County Council at its meeting on 9th July 2007 and this should assist the speedy delivery of Planning Approval(s) for the various facilities on the Campus.

SPU was requested by NSCDA to project manage the **relocation of the FAI Headquarters from Merrion Square to the former State Laboratories in Abbotstown.** Tenders were invited, a contract placed and Practical Completion achieved in 2007. The FAI commenced occupation of the building on the week-end of 23-25 November 2007 and the formal opening of the new HQ was performed on Wednesday, 5th December 2007 by the Minister of Arts, Sport and Tourism, Seamus Brennan TD, with UEFA President Michel Platini. The FAI leases the premises from the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA).

In that context, SPU was also requested by NSCDA to project manage the **relocation of the Irish Institute of Sport** to a new HQ to be located in the former Central Meat Control Laboratory Building, in **Abbotstown.** The

development involves changes to the internal layout of the building to provide for office, administration and staff uses, together with revised parking arrangements and repair and replacement of the existing roof tiles. SPU, with Architectural and Engineering input from AS5 and OPW Engineering Services respectively, lodged a Planning Application in late September, 2007 and received Planning Permission in late November 2007 for the proposed development. Tender documents are currently in preparation and it is anticipated that the project will be completed by late Autumn 2008.

SPU currently provides **advice on** Projects carried out as part of **DAST's Sports Capital Programme** where a Grant in excess of €150,000 for a particular development has been approved.

Total Expenditure by Special Projects Unit in 2007 was €47,017,720.

Completed	In Progress	Planning Permission/ Tender Stage	In Planning
Provision of Accommodation for the Department of Finance at 7-9 Merrion Row	Department of Agriculture & Food Farm Facility at Longtown, Clane, Co. Kildare	Mountjoy Prison redevelopment	National Concert Hall redevelopment (PPP)
Relocation of the FAI HQ from Merrion Square to the former State Laboratory in Abbotstown	Provision of office accommodation for the Department of Agriculture & Food at Backweston.	Irish Institute of Sport new HQ at Abbotstown	New Abbey Theatre (PPP)
RHK Gates	Redevelopment of the Assay Office, Dublin Castle.	Sports Campus at Abbotstown	
Planning Study of the Abbotstown lands for Fingal County Council	New Stadium at Lansdowne Road		
	National Conference Centre (PPP)		

National Conference Centre, Spencer Dock, Dublin



Architectural Services

The architectural practice within the Office of Public Works provides a service of exceptional quality. It provides a comprehensive design and project management service for public sector building projects, a conservation management and advisory service and offers independent advice to the Government on architectural issues.

By operating closely with the Structural Engineering and Mechanical and Electrical Sections of the Engineering Services Business Unit and with the Quantity Surveying Section it offers a full in-house multi-disciplinary service to its customers.

Architectural Services have developed a reputation for quality and professionalism reflected by the many awards achieved. In recent years Architectural Services has developed its knowledge and expertise in the area of public and private partnerships and continues to develop its thinking and methodology for the delivery of quality in design and construction for all new procurement routes.

The practice has developed a comprehensive management system that is ISO 9002 accredited and produces annual accounts that consistently show Architectural Services to be operating at a notional surplus.

Services offered to our customers include:

- Provision of full design and construction management service
- Project feasibility studies and reports

- Development of initial brief
- Advice on initial building and lifetime costs
- Advice on planning and building regulation issues
- Advice on health and safety
- Advice on conservation methods and procedures
- Advice on access to the built environment

The practice has a developed expertise in a number of areas:

- Modern office accommodation
- Conservation and restoration of heritage properties
- Prison buildings
- Garda buildings
- Courthouses
- Laboratories
- Public Offices and Government Departments
- Public access at heritage sites
- Exhibition Design
- Universal Access
- Sustainable Design
- Urban Design

Project Portfolio

In 2007 the Government Decentralisation Programme continued to be a priority focus for Architectural Services. The Programme involved a full and diverse range of activities for architectural staff from initial site appraisals through all stages to monitoring on-site construction. Architectural Services continued to exercise a coordinating role between the relevant Business Units and was principally involved in a) the continuing development of client briefs, b) documentation, tendering and evaluation of submissions including PPPs and c) preparing as necessary the accommodation needs of all advance parties and early movers within the Programme.

Some of the significant projects to complete construction in 2007 were – the Merrion Row Development for the Department of Finance; works to the Dáil Chamber; Decentralised Offices in Sligo and Longford; Galway Social Welfare and Oranmore Garda Station.

The year commenced with a work programme of 435 projects with a combined value of €1.646 billion. At the end of 2007 there were 434 projects with a value of €1.898 billion. The additional value of projects under the Decentralised Programme was approximately € 400M.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

During 2007, the Architectural Services CPD programme reflected the many significant regulatory changes, particularly in the area of Health & Safety and Construction Procurement reform.

Over 90 Architectural staff received RIAI approved training in “Designing for Safety”. This course, along with other Health & Safety training of selected staff, was an important element of Architectural Services response to the new H&S Construction regulations introduced in November 2006. Ongoing Safepass training was carried out by Architectural Services own FAS certified Tutor. All Architectural Services permanent staff received training in the new forms of Contract and the new Capital works Management Framework.

Other CPD events during 2007 included the following:

- Day courses for individual staff members on Historic Ironwork, Services in Historic Houses, in association with the Dublin Civic Trust.
- Participation by selected Architectural staff at Gardens & Tourism Conference
- Senior Architectural management staff attended conferences relating to European Environmental Policy, & Public Private Partnerships.
- “Sub Urban to Super Rural” Exhibition in OPW Atrium in association with the Irish Architecture Foundation.

- Participation by selected staff at Historic Houses of Ireland Annual Conference
- Participation by selected staff at 2007 "Planning and Design for Heritage Development Conference"
- Presentations on OPW Art Portfolio and Art Management by Senior staff to colleagues.
- Companies with appropriate (RIAI or RIBA) CPD accreditation continued to give a variety of Lunchtime Technical and Trade presentations to Architectural staff throughout 2007. Themes covered included, Surveying Techniques, Ground Penetrating Radar, Safety at Height and Access Systems, Ventilated Rain Screen Cladding, "3D" software, Waste Management, Use of Traditional Lime Mortars,

Graduate Training Programme

- The joint RIAI/OPW Graduate Architect Training Programme has a total complement of 30 graduates. Ten graduates completed their two-year assignment in 2007 and their positions were filled with new graduates.
- A number of ex-OPW Graduate Architects were recruited as permanent architects in 2006-7.
- The training programme continues to provide graduates with the practical experience required for the RIAI/NUJ Part 3 examination in Professional Practice.

- The graduate architects continue to make a positive contribution to the creative environment of Architectural Services.

Conservation

The Conservation Unit was involved in a number of major building conservation projects including works, executed directly by Building Maintenance Services, OPW, to the Main House and West Wing at Castletown House, Co. Kildare which received the LAMA award for Best Heritage Project 2007. It also provided advice and specialist consultancy service on a range of Protected Structures including Government Offices at 7/9 Merrion Row, Marsh's Library and the Houses of the Oireachtas.

The Conservation Unit is also involved in ongoing collaboration on a range of conservation research initiatives, including:

- Developing a Building Stone and Quarry Source Database with the Geological Survey of Ireland.
- Developing a Framework for the Appraisal of Cultural Significance in partnership with the School of Architecture, University College Dublin.
- Research into the Suitability of Specific Timbers for Joinery Repair in Historic Buildings in collaboration with English Heritage.

- Research into the movement of Air within Building Cavities in collaboration with English Heritage.
- Participation in a European study on Treatments for the Conservation of Historic Ironwork.

Sustainable Development and Universal Access Work Group

- The OPW SD+UA Workgroup [Sustainable Design and Universal Access Work Group] reviewed its Terms of Reference in 2007 to give effect to all Government Policies in particular the Government Policy on Architecture in the areas of Sustainable Design and Universal Access by:-
 - Continuing to advocate SD+UA in all OPW projects.
 - Continuing to participate in Government, professional and construction industry working groups and committees in relation to SD+UA and related subjects.
 - Continuing to advise on updating ISO Practice Manual to meet best practice in SD+UA.
 - Partnering in research and benchmarking projects with outside bodies.
 - Advising on CPD in the area of SD+UA.
- The membership of the Work Group has expanded

to include architects and engineers who joined the OPW in 2006-7.

- Members of the SD+UA continue to represent the OPW on the RIAI Sustainability Task Force, the Accessibility Task Force and the DOEHLG review of Part M of the Building Regulations.
- The SD+UA was represented on the OPW Sustainability Task Force and the members participated in the workshops leading to the OPW Sustainability Policy and Action Plan that is due for implementation in 2008.



Irish Aid Centre, O'Connell Street, Dublin

Engineering Services

During 2007 a broad spectrum of engineering services was provided in the civil, mechanical & electrical and hydrometric fields in connection with Engineering Services own work programme and that of other Office of Public Works business units. These services can be broadly divided into flood risk management and property-related activities.

Flood Risk Management

Substantial progress was made in implementing many of the programmes underpinning the national flood policy and the process of recruiting the additional staff required for implementation continued. The main developments are summarised below.

Flood Studies Report Update Programme

During 2007 one research study element of the programme was completed, two continued from 2006 and three new studies were commissioned.

Regional workshops were held in Dublin, Cork and Galway to outline progress on the programme to date and obtain feedback from engineering practitioners in Local Authorities and consultancies who will be the principal users of the data.

Strategic Review of the Hydrometric Monitoring Programme

The consultant's report, which analysed the State's existing hydrometric data acquisition infrastructure and made recommendations for improving it, was completed in late



FSU workshop

2007. An implementation strategy for the recommendations of the report is being prepared.

Research and Development Programme

The focus in 2007 was on establishing contact with research & development programmes in other countries that would assist OPW in advancing its research needs.

Flood Hazard Mapping Programme

The Flood Hazard Mapping website, www.floodmaps.ie, which was launched in 2006 continued to be enhanced and updated with additional information in relation to actual flood events. The website received awards in the eGovernment Awards 2007 and Innovation Through Technology Awards 2007 and was shortlisted in the BT Inspired IT awards.

Development continued on the format for presenting on the website the detailed predictive flood maps that will be produced as part of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study Programme in order to meet the requirements of the new EU Directive on the Assessment & Management of Flood Risk (the "Floods" Directive).

Preparations for undertaking broad scale indicative flood maps that are also required by the Floods Directive were initiated.

Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme

A new unit, the Flood Risk Assessment and Management Section, was established within Engineering Services to manage this Programme, which is a key component of the National Flood Policy and a requirement of the EU Floods Directive. During 2007 the Section was involved in five FRAM studies.

Lee Catchment This Study - the pilot for the National Catchment FRAM programme - continued throughout 2007. Noteworthy elements of the Study completed in 2007 were: -

- high-resolution geometric laser survey of relevant flood defences
- launch of public information website (www.leecframs.ie)
- Flood Defence Asset Database



Lee FRAM Public Information website

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report
- Preliminary Hydrology Analysis and Report
- Channel and structure cross-section surveys

The Lee Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan will be released for public consultation in 2008.

Dodder Catchment OPW continued to provide technical support to Dublin City Council on the management of the Dodder Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study.

Tullamore This study was substantially completed in 2007 in co-operation with Tullamore Town Council and Offaly County Council.

Suir Catchment This study started in mid-2007, and a Steering Group comprising six Local Authorities was set up. The channel and structure cross-section survey was completed by the end of 2007, and hydrological analysis is underway.

Fingal/East Meath OPW is working very closely with Fingal and Meath Council Councils on the preparation of the Fingal East-Meath FRAM. The procurement of consultants for this project is nearing completion, with an appointment likely to be made before April 2008.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Programme

Flood forecasting systems are under development and testing for Clonmel, Mallow and Fermoy in connection with the implementation of flood relief schemes for these towns that are dependent on the provision of flood warning.

Emergency Response Development Programme

The OPW completed guidelines on the preparation of flood event emergency response plans, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders. These are now being adapted for incorporation into strategic guidelines on National Emergency Response being prepared by the Department of the Environment & Local Government.

Public Awareness and Preparedness Programme

In 2007 the focus was on continuing to raise general awareness regarding the guidance material and website provided by OPW to assist property owners to prepare for flooding.

Planning and Development Management Programme

Draft guidelines were completed in conjunction with the Department of the Environment and Local Government and other stakeholders. These will be finalised for consultation with stakeholders during 2008.

Asset Database and Management Programme

A defence asset database was developed as part of the Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study for the Lee Catchment, Cork and is currently being modified for use countrywide.

Flood Relief Schemes Programme

The OPW programme of Flood Relief Schemes has been ongoing since 1995. Schemes are carried out in association with the relevant local authorities. Works are generally carried out under the Arterial Drainage Acts, although in recent years some phases of schemes have been carried out by the local authorities under the Planning and Development Regulations. In some situations, OPW has funded Local Authorities directly to undertake flood relief works.

Expenditure on construction works in 2007 amounted to approximately €15 million. These construction works included major embankment construction on the Clonmel West Flood Relief Scheme, construction of new walls on the River Dodder in Dublin City and new culvert works in Leixlip on the Rye Water. Funding was provided to Waterford City Council to undertake works on John's River, Carlow County Council to undertake works on the River Barrow in Carlow

	East Region		West Region		S-W Region		Total	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Main channels (km)	58	60	167	138	79	57	305	255
Minor channels (km)	857	883	514	523	458	514	1829	1920
Structures repaired or replaced	27	50	60	43	136	136	223	229
Bridge development applications	171	181	95	150	152	106	418	437
Labourforce (at 31 December)	130	126	95	96	74	74	299	296
Maintenance expenditure (€m)	6.1	6.6	5.5	5.9	4.8	6.5	16.4	19.0

Town and Dublin City Council to undertake works on the Rivers Liffey and Dodder and at Clontarf.

The remaining works on the River Tolka in Dublin City were completed in 2007. These included the lowering of Distillery weir and the construction of a fish pass there. Also completed were the capping of the wall in East Wall and wall strengthening in Griffith Park.

OPW completed the detailed design of four major schemes in 2007, Clonmel West, Mallow North, Fermoy North and Ennis (Fergus Upper), with Clonmel commencing in 2007 and the other three due to commence construction in early-mid 2008. Feasibility Reports were also progressed for flood relief schemes in Mornington, County Meath, Templemore, County Tipperary and Tullow, County Carlow in order to bring those schemes to public exhibition in 2008.



Griffith Park wall strengthening

Drainage Maintenance Programme

The main outputs in relation to maintenance of completed Arterial Drainage and Flood Relief channels in 2007 are summarised above.

Localised flooding initiative: Following exceptionally heavy rainfall in December 2006 and January 2007 severe localised flooding occurred in many locations where OPW did not have a maintenance responsibility and where no OPW flood relief schemes had been planned. It was announced that OPW would work with Local Authorities to relieve such localised flooding subject to certain criteria in relation to cost/benefit and environmental impact. The majority of these cases were undertaken directly by OPW staff. In other cases, assistance was provided to the Local Authorities either financially or by supplying plant and labour. Locations where works were carried out or funded by OPW in 2007 included: -

Co. Donegal: Ballybofey, Raymoghly
Co. Mayo: Clyard, Thomastown



River Tolka fish pass

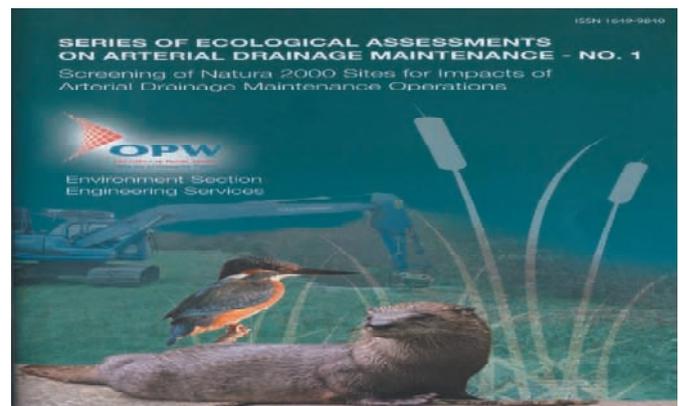
Co. Galway:	Esker
Co. Cork:	Gortroe, Ballymakeera
Co. Offaly:	Banagher, Shannonbridge

Proposals for works at a number of other locations were being examined or developed.

Environmental activities: During 2007:-

- Ecological Assessment reports were produced on the impacts of Arterial Drainage on the following:
 - Natura 2000 Sites
 - Raised Bogs and Associated Habitats
 - Atlantic Salmon in Special Areas of Conservation
 - Otters
 - Floating River Vegetation
 - Birds Dependent on Riparian Habitats
- Ecological Impact Assessments were commissioned on the effects of statutory arterial drainage maintenance activities on Turloughs and Fresh Water Pearl Mussels.
- Proposals were developed for a 5-year Environmental River Enhancement Programme.

Mechanical Engineering: The ongoing plant management programme, which in 2007 involved purchases totalling €1m and sales of obsolete equipment that realised €400,000, ensured that equipment availability of the Drainage Maintenance hydraulic and transport fleet was in excess of 90%.



Report on Arterial Drainage impact on Otters

A carbon footprint management strategy was developed for the Drainage Maintenance Service.

Central Engineering Workshops continued to provide a design and fabrication service in support of Drainage Maintenance operations and other OPW programmes and to outside bodies. A statutory inspection service continued to be provided in respect of mechanical plant at various State harbours.

Hydrology & Hydrometric Services

Hydrometric data collection: Two additional permanent gauging stations were added to the nationwide network bringing the total to 358 (297 permanent and 61 project-related) stations.

Provision of hydrological data: 98% of requests for data or information were processed within 7 days of receipt and data is also being provided via a dedicated Internet site, www.opw.ie.

opw.ie/hydro/home.asp. Information was also provided in connection with OPW Programmes and those of other state bodies.

Data collection: As part of a programme to automate the process of data collection an additional 180 Hydrometric gauging stations were configured to automatically transfer water level data by telemetry to the Hydrometric database. The new telemetry units are powered by solar panels.

Scanning of records: Approximately 435,600 paper-based Hydrometric chart records were scanned to digital images to ensure their continued availability and to provide enhanced accessibility.

Gauging equipment: A number of sophisticated gauging equipment units were purchased and installed in connection with pilot flood warning systems for the Suir and Munster Blackwater.

Property-related Activities

Civil and Structural Engineering Services

Advisory, design and monitoring services were provided in connection with OPW work programmes and to other bodies during 2007. A particular focus involved the assessment of sites and assessment of submissions by developers in relation to the Public Service Decentralisation Programme.

Monitoring services were provided, in conjunction with

Resident Engineers, for five decentralisation projects that are at construction stage.

An assessment was undertaken of one large Public Private Partnership project, involving three sites in different locations throughout the country.

Activity in the year in this area can be summarized as follows:

Project/Activity	No. on hand 1/1/2007	New Projects In 2007	Total	Number Completed in 2007
Building	19	3	22	0
Civil Structural	14	5	19	1
Reports	160	62	222	52

Mechanical and Electrical

The main areas of activity were as follows:

Energy awareness: One of OPW's commitments under the Government's National Climate Change Strategy is to carry out a major staff energy awareness campaign in all large state buildings within the OPW's portfolio. A pilot energy awareness campaign was completed in 10 buildings in 2007, with energy savings of up to 19% achieved in some offices. Two Service Providers were appointed in December to roll out the programme in 250 buildings under a campaign entitled 'Optimising Power @ Work', which aims to achieve a minimum of 15% reduction in Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

emissions in each building. A key element of the programme will be the ability to closely monitor CO₂ emissions reductions using the web based energy monitoring system which has been installed in each of the buildings over the past number of years.

Major projects: Technical services continued to be provided to OPW's buildings programme including the decentralisation projects. Projects in 2007 included the new OPW Headquarters in Trim, the Children's Science Museum, the Leinster House refurbishment, Castletown House and many more.

Maintenance: Although much of the day-to-day maintenance of existing services in buildings have been outsourced, OPW continues to provide technical support and key inputs in insuring that the building assets are preserved and fit for purpose.

Output in 2007 is summarised in the table below:

Work Area Total Value	Total Value (€m)
New Works	32
Minor Maintenance Works	17
Programmed Maintenance Work	6
Reactive Maintenance Work	3
Advice and Monitoring	60
Decentralisation Programme	200

Quality Service

Engineering Service's focus on quality and benchmarking the standard of its services continued in 2007, as indicated by the following:

- Drainage Maintenance achieved accreditation to the OHSAS18001 (Health & Safety) standard.
- All Engineering Services sections already accredited to the ISO 9001 standard retained that status following external audits conducted in 2007.
- The customer satisfaction-monitoring programme in Drainage Maintenance Division again yielded a high satisfaction rating from clients.
- Engineering Services retained its accreditation to the Institution of Engineers of Ireland Continuing Professional Development training scheme for professional and technical staff.

Grangegorman Cemetery



Heritage Services

National Monuments

Financial

Subhead I2

1. €17,974,421.63 was expended in 2007 from the I2 Subhead. (Of this,- €11,237,781.93 was spent on PAY and the remaining €6,736,639.70 was spent on NON_PAY).

General

During 2007 the six national monuments depots were responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the some 750 national monuments in state care, including 61 sites, which provide a visitor service/centre. To support the main depots we operated a total of 12 sub depots across the country in places such as Cong, Co. Mayo, Kinsale Co. Cork, Cashel, Co. Tipperary and Ashtown in the Phoenix Park. The total employed in the area increased during summer months with the recruitment of seasonal staff to assist in the completion of specific tasks. In addition to our core conservation work, the maintenance of sites in state care involved each depot undertaking the following - the service of plant, machinery and transport; the purchase of small plant such as grass cutting equipment, the provision of materials such as fuel, timber, scaffold, sand, stone and mortar; the provision of security and cleaning services at visitor centres as required; the maintenance of audio visual equipment at sites, the provision and erection/maintenance

of interpretative panels as required; and the maintenance of security, fire and service equipment. The allocation to each depot was also used to fund items such as specialist reports, archaeological excavation/monitoring and management plans.

During 2007 National Monuments Division also dealt with, on a daily basis, requests from the general public, local groups, local authorities, etc. for permission to use specific monuments for various purposes.

Works/Services for the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government –

€1,700,675.22 was expended in 2007 by OPW National Monuments on works/services on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. This expenditure relates to the installation/upgrading of audio-visual shows and exhibitions at national monument sites in State care; the operation of an apprenticeship scheme aimed at building up a skills base in traditional building conservation skills; and a number of conservation projects at national monument sites.

Historic Properties

Historic Properties is responsible for the conservation, management, presentation and development of 20 Historic Properties comprising Houses, Historic Parks, Gardens and

Arboreta. These include such flagship properties as the Phoenix Park, National Botanic Gardens, Battle of the Boyne site, Emo Court, Co. Laois and Inacullin (Garinish Island), Co. Cork.

Development work encompasses restoration of historic buildings, provision of improved visitor facilities, upgrading and restoration of Historic Parks, Gardens and Arboreta and the interpretation and presentation of these heritage properties to the public.

In addition to current expenditure incurred in relation to the staffing and maintenance of these properties, capital funding was also provided by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. A wide ranging programme of small-scale maintenance, improvement, conservation and health and safety works, together with the provision of machinery, was funded from the OPW Vote in 2007.

Liffey Valley Regional Park, Lucan

Lucan Demesne was acquired by the State in 1996 with the objective of establishing a Liffey Valley Regional Park which could be extended in the future by the three relevant Local Authorities who agreed to co-operatively manage and maintain the site as a single entity and to carry out an agreed programme of works for its development. To this

end, funding totalling €4.7m., to be allocated over a period of years, was approved. The Local Authorities made further progress during 2006 in implementing the programme of works. This project is funded by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the current National Development Plan.

Phoenix Park, Dublin

Arising from the Phoenix Park Transportation Study, published in September 2006, a number of measures have been implemented and others are being progressed eg. A new one way traffic system was introduced at the Chapelizod and Islandbridge Gates in June 07 and has been very successful in dramatically reducing the traffic hazards at these gates.

In order to protect the amenity value of the Park, the Military Road has been closed to through traffic with very positive effects on the Park environment and the visitor experience.

A pilot bicycle hire scheme, which proved to be very popular, was introduced in the Park in Summer 2007. Given the success of the pilot scheme it was subsequently decided to put a longer term concession in place. Tenders were invited in January 2008 and the successful tenderer is now fully operational.

A contract for provision of a new carpark off the Lord's Walk, close to Dublin Zoo commenced in October 2007 and

is due to open to the public in May 2008. The carpark will accommodate c. 260 cars and will open to visitors at 10.00am each morning to avoid the risk of it being used by commuter traffic. This initiative is part of an initiative to help relieve the parking pressures on Chesterfield avenue.

A Planning Application was lodged with Dublin City Council in July 2007 for major renewal of Chesterfield avenue which in addition to structural upgrading of whole avenue includes for provision of a permanent roundabout at Mountjoy junction and a more pedestrian friendly zone in the Dublin Zoo/parkgate street area.

Other projects

The programme for refurbishment of Park Lodges continues. Four Lodges were completed in 2007 and plans for refurbishment of a further four lodges are at the planning application stage

A contract for provision of a new playground beside the Park Visitor Centre commenced in 2007 and will be completed in February 2008. The playground has been designed to accommodate children with physical disabilities.

Work on drafting of a Phoenix Park Conservation Management Plan has been progressed and it is hoped to have this ready for publication in Autumn 2008, following

completion of the public consultation process.

Works on the cemetery at the old Royal Hibernian Military School and further works are planned to restore this area.

Phoenix Park Lodges

Following a condition survey of Lodges in the Phoenix Park, undertaken some years ago, a phased programme of refurbishment works was put in place. In planning these works, conservation is the guiding principle. Five Lodges were completed in 2007 as follows:-

- Laundry Lodge
- Bessboro West Lodge
- Islandbridge Lodge
- Buggy's Lodge
- Visitor Centre gate lodge

Great Blasket Island, Co. Kerry

The Government Decision dated 6th July 2005 approved a total expenditure of €8.5 million for the purchase of land interests (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government), the provision of piers (Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in partnership with Kerry County Council), conservation works, operational costs and consultancy fees (OPW).

Agreement was reached with the principal landowner, Blascaod Mor Teoranta, for the purchase of holdings on the

Island and contracts were signed in July 2007. The vendors stipulated however that they were not prepared to complete the contracts until such time as they had secured a viable planning permission for some limited development of hostel and tearoom facilities on the Island. A decision by Bord Pleanála on this matter is due in late July 2008.

The majority of landowners have already signed up to the Management Plan for the Island dated September 2004, drawn up in consultation with the landowners on the Island and relevant State agencies.

Emo Court, Co. Laois

The works for the provision of a new tearoom in the upper floor of the Bachelors Wing have been completed. The tearoom has proved to be extremely popular with the public. The second phase of the works relating to the ground floor, and involving improvements to staff facilities and office accommodation has now been completed. Proposals to acquire the Wellingtonia Avenue from Coillte are well advanced.

Heywood Gardens, Co. Laois

A co-ordinated programme of works is under way including continuing horticultural maintenance, remedial works to the follies and other garden structures, access works and upgrading of staff facilities.

Altamont Gardens

A memo was submitted to Cabinet in 2007 with the result that the Government has approved the taking of Altamont Gardens in to the care of the State. The matter is in the hands of the Chief State Solicitor who is finalising the transfer.

St Enda's Pearse Museum and Park, Dublin

The major project for the refurbishment of the Museum made good progress in 2007 and is on schedule for completion in July 2008. The works are mainly of a structural nature and will accommodate universal access.

Renewal of the Exhibition At a later date, it is proposed to design and install a totally new exhibition for the Museum, telling the Pearse story.

Doneraile Park, Co. Cork

A programme of essential works is ongoing, including: the provision of staff accommodation, new windows and a security system for the main house and roof works to the coach house. A new playground in keeping with the site is being provided this year (planning permission awaited). A contract will soon be placed for the refurbishment of the public toilets, this will include connection to the main sewerage scheme.

The gardeners cottages on site have been surveyed and

tenders documents are being prepared for roof repair works. Additional car parking spaces are being provided near the main entrance.

A five year tree planting renewal scheme is underway. Approx 600 native trees have been planted to date.

Battle of the Boyne site, Oldbridge

The Taoiseach welcomed newly-appointed First Minister of Northern Ireland, Dr Ian Paisley, MP, MLA - paying his first official visit to the State in his new capacity - to the site of the historic Battle of the Boyne (1690) at Oldbridge, Co Meath on the 11th of May. Also in attendance to mark the historic

occasion were many Ministers and other dignitaries from both North and South.

The VIPs inspected the works-in-progress which include: the development of Oldbridge House (c1740) as a Visitor Centre with exhibitions of models, maps and graphics, a display of 17th century artillery and associated military equipment, refurbishment of the adjoining stable-block for audio-visual facilities, restoration of the walled gardens, provision of a new tearoom pavilion, toilets and car/bus parking. The initiative arose from an undertaking in the Good Friday Agreement to implement tangible measures to 'demonstrate respect for the different traditions on the island of Ireland'.



Oldbridge Aerial View



Dr Ian Paisley, MP, MLA and Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD.

Dr Paisley presented the Taoiseach with a rare Jabobite cavalry officer's musket (1675), said to have been used at both the Siege of Derry (1689) and at the Boyne, for display in the House.

Funding for major capital projects is provided from the Vote of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Visitor Services

The primary function of the OPW Heritage Service is the conservation and preservation of built heritage sites in its care. In addition to this statutory function, the Service also provides a range of measures designed to support visitor access and ensure that sites are presented to the public. This work is managed by the Visitor Service Section.

During 2007, Visitor Services underwent a significant change because of its move to a new Decentralised Office location in Claremorris, Co. Mayo (see separate entry elsewhere in this volume). Notwithstanding this, the section continued to deliver on its extensive ongoing work programme and was, by year end, operating fully from the new location. The following is an overview of some of the activities throughout the year:

Guide Service

Safe public access to the built heritage sites and the delivery of a quality interpretative service was achieved by augmenting the permanent Guide cadre with the recruitment of approximately 365 Seasonal Guides. In total, approximately 500 staff were directly employed by OPW at sites, ensuring Guide coverage at 69 sites nationwide.

A total of 2.43 million people visited the staffed sites in 2007 which was an increase of 7.34% on the 2006 total.

Heritage Week

Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days, a joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission and is designed to celebrate the unity and diversity of Europe's cultural heritage. OPW continued its involvement in the project, which is managed by the Heritage Council and was a key contributor to the week with various events organised at sites through the country from 25th August to 2nd September 2007. These events celebrated the history of the sites in a variety of ways including music, literature, re-enactments and guided tours.

Customer Service

Publications:

During 2007, Visitor Services continued to work to meet the

needs of various Heritage sites for publications and other items:

- Interpretative publications and Information leaflets;
- Postcards.

An active programme to procure additional interpretative material in particular was well advanced during 2007 with a view to meeting the needs of sites in the 2008 season. This had an emphasis on providing reprints of existing out of stock publications and reprints in additional languages, in particular Irish.

Advertising and General Awareness:

Visitor Services is also responsible for the management of Advertising and the promotion of General Awareness of sites within the Heritage portfolio.

In 2007, the issue of advertising was addressed and a decision was made to rationalise the amount of resources spent in this area with the placing of print advertising only in those publications dealing directly with the Tourist or Travel trade and a reliance on the redevelopment of the heritageireland.ie website to facilitate general awareness.

The new redesigned Website, incorporating revised information and photographs and containing a number

of new elements, was relaunched in December with a live webcast of the Winter Solstice at Newgrange and it is intended to have the Irish version of the website available early in 2008. The website provides an improved and more informative experience for the visitor and will include the most up-to-date information available.

Heritage Card

The OPW Heritage Card gives free and unlimited access for one year to all of the fee-paying OPW and Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government sites in Ireland.

17,000 Heritage cards were sold in 2007, generating an income of €425,000 approximately. This reflects the continuing popularity of the Heritage Sites and the exceptional value for money that the card affords the holder.

Government Supplies Agency

Procurement Service

The Government Supplies Agency (GSA) provides a central procurement service for Government Departments and Offices for a range of goods and services. The range covers items that are commonly used across the State often in high volumes.

The total value of the goods and services purchased by Client Departments through GSA contracts in 2007 was €65,208,728. A breakdown per market, with comparative figures for 2006 is provided in the following table.

Category	Value 2007	Value 2006
Fuels (Liquid, Gas & Solid)	13,466,143	14,991,433
Printing & Binding	11,157,120	9,374,092
Electricity	9,245,310	3,712,787
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	8,712,086	28,976,078
Advertising Services	6,429,504	8,304,162
Uniforms & Clothing	5,827,152	5,433,342
Stationery & Office Supplies	4,916,286	5,206,031
Footwear	2,599,823	1,467,144
Janitorial Supplies	1,923,636	1,950,358
Personal Protective Equipment	931,668	1,003,104
Public Order Equipment	0	249,118
Totals	65,208,728	80,667,649

The reduction in the total value in 2007 is due largely to the exceptionally high level of purchases on transport for the Garda Síochána in 2006. The Agency's involvement in the Electricity market continued to grow during 2007.

During 2007, GSA Procurement Services attained ISO 9001:2000 accreditation

Publications

The Agency's Government Publications Service continued to provide a retail and mail-order service for the sale and distribution of Government Publications. Sales in 2007 amounted to €1,195,000.

As part of the Government's decentralisation programme, the processing of telephone and mail orders for Government Publications moved in October 2007 from OPW Headquarters at 51 St. Stephen's Green to Claremorris, Co. Mayo. The Agency continued to provide uninterrupted service to customers during the course of this transfer, which entailed a new team of staff being trained and taking over the responsibilities.

Iris Oifigiúil

The Government Supplies Agency publishes Iris Oifigiúil, the Government Gazette, twice each week. An Internet version of Iris Oifigiúil is also available and can be accessed at www.irisoifigiuil.ie.

Election Services

The Government Supplies Agency manages the production of ballot papers for referenda and national elections, and the supply of all stationery requirements to Returning Officers as well as the provision of stamping instruments for marking ballot papers. For the General Election in 2007, the Agency's activities included:

- supply of some 3.4 million polling cards to Returning Officers
- placing and managing contracts with seven printing firms for the production of over 3,500,000 ballot papers for 43 constituencies
- preparation and checking of 7,800 stamping instruments
- delivering stamping instruments and election stationery under secure conditions to 27 locations throughout the country
- managing the return of stamping instruments, testaments and other unused items to stores, cleaning of stamping instruments and restocking of stores
- managing all financial transactions associated with these activities.

The contracts for printing of ballot papers entail the production of high quality work within very short time periods. The contracts required the delivery of full colour press proofs to Returning Officers (including text, party emblems and candidate photographs) within 24 hours of

the nomination of candidates being finalised, and complete delivery of the required quantity of ballot papers within 5 days of approval of proofs.

The overall cost of the services and supplies provided by GSA for the General Election was €666,000.

Corporate Services

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Personnel

The Personnel Division in the Office of Public Works provides a support service to a large multi-faceted and multi-locational organisation with a workforce of over 2,000 (rising to near 2,500 in summer months) in administrative, professional, technical and industrial grades.

Because of the diverse nature of the work carried out by OPW our staff have a wide mix of competencies and skills. This diverse and talented staff cadre input into the businesses undertaken by OPW across areas such as procurement, property maintenance, property and project management, architectural design, heritage conservation and flood relief management.

In 2007 the Personnel Division provided a range of services to both management and staff in OPW (e.g. Recruitment, promotion, pay and pensions, work-life balance options and various leave options) while meeting internal organisational challenges arising from decentralisation and dealing with the evolving complexity of employment law and with individual staff member issues.

Under the Government's Decentralisation Programme, 35 staff transferred into OPW and 13 staff transferred out of OPW in 2007.

Ongoing communications were conducted with staff

and unions through the formal representative forums of Partnership and Departmental Council as well as with individual unions and staff on particulars.

OPW Authorised Staff as at 31st. December, 2007

Non-industrial	739
Industrial	1,467
Total	2,206

Equality Unit

In 2007 the Equality Unit, which was established in 2006, continued its work of developing and delivering equality awareness programmes across all grounds of the Employment Equality Acts and promoting best practice in OPW. Its services are for all employees – administrative, professional, technical and industrial grades.

During 2007, under the WAM (Willing Able Mentoring) programme – which is a programme to assist graduates with disabilities in sourcing meaningful employment, and is promoted by the Department of Finance, OPW placed two graduates within headquarters. Line Managers, mentors and staff of the Equality Unit were all trained appropriately in advance of the placement personnel taking up their work experience employment.

Training Unit

Large numbers of staff availed of the training opportunities provided in 2007. Training was provided in computer and competency skills together with ongoing professional development courses for professional and technical staff..

A very successful programme of pre-retirement training courses was run which were very well attended. Courses were held in various locations around the country and such was the positive feedback that further courses are being planned for centres outside Dublin for 2008.

A further addition to the Training programme has been a series of Health and Well-Being classes and the feedback from staff has been very positive. Procurement training for all staff is being rolled out at present and is based on the Office Notices issued by the Office.

Training Unit has sourced a provider to strengthen the ongoing interaction with the PMDS system. This endeavour will incorporate Workshops and Focus Groups from each section and will start early 2008.

Employee Assistance Service

The Employee Assistance Service offers in-house comprehensive staff support in OPW. It is designed to assist in the well-being of employees, which will consequently impact positively on work performance, health and quality of life.

The Service is affiliated to the Civil Service wide Employee Assistance Service. Centrally co-coordinated by the Department of Finance and operating to a professional Code of Practice, its aim is to enhance the psychological and physical well-being of staff, improve communication and maintain positive work relationships.

In providing the Employee Assistance Service, OPW recognizes the important contribution of its individual employees and the benefits of investing in services which support staff who may be experiencing difficulties.

During 2007, two Employee Assistance Officers with a country-wide remit continued to provide staff with a confidential counseling, referral, support and information service. Health and well-being was promoted with a wide range of information available through talks, presentations and use of the OPW intranet and email.

Liaison with HR and Equality Divisions on relevant issues was maintained and developed.

Services were also provided to OPW retired staff.

The central website for the Civil Service Employee Assistance Service is www.cseas.gov.ie

Organisation Unit

The Organisation Unit, as part of Corporate Services, supplies and maintains the IT, telecommunications, and office equipment infrastructure that underpins OPW's activities. Organisation Unit also incorporates the Freedom of Information and Legal Services section.

IT Unit

The main focus in 2007 was the delivery of the projects and services set out in its Business Plan.

The key projects were:

- Replacement of Microsoft Office with OpenOffice across various Business Units. At the end of 2007 over half of the PC users in OPW had migrated to OpenOffice. This programme will continue throughout 2008.
- Provision of ICT Services for the temporary decentralised office in Claremorris, Co. Mayo utilising state of the art technologies including:
 - wireless network
 - videoconferencing
 - Voice over IP (VoIP)
 - Linux desktops

The Claremorris office is being used as a test-bed for new

technologies in advance of the major decentralisation moves in 2009.

- A tender was accepted at the end of 2007 for the implementation of a Storage Area Network (SAN) solution. Implementation of the SAN will involve a major redesign of OPW's storage and backup architecture. This restructuring must be done in advance of decentralisation in 2009. Aside from providing a secure centralised storage repository, the SAN will also allow the off-site replication of important data through a process called "mirroring". This will support the OPW's business continuity efforts in the event of a natural disaster.
- A tender was also accepted at the end of 2007 for the implementation of an enterprise Search Engine Solution. This will be deployed across Business Units and will assist in the search and retrieval of electronic files. Aside from making OPW information more widely available to staff, the search engine project will act as a catalyst for improving data management in OPW.

IT Helpdesk

The IT Helpdesk dealt with over 9,400 calls in 2007, a reduction of 25% on 2006. This can be accounted for by a combination of upgraded computer equipment and a more proactive approach taken in relation to user IT problems.

FOI/Legal Services

The efficient and effective handling of FOI requests continued to be a priority during 2007.

The total number of requests dealt with during the year amounted to 29 and where appropriate, requesters were given every assistance with access to records without having to make a formal FOI application

The following table sets out a summary of the FOI activity during the year. Requests from business/vested interests accounted for the majority of FOI requests received.

Total Requests received	29
Journalists	5
Business	16
Members of the Oireachtas	1
Staff Members	2
Other	5

FOI requests received in OPW are now available for viewing on the OPW website at – http://www.opw.ie/freedom/fr_free.htm

In 2007, Legal Services continued to liaise with the State Claims Agency (SCA) in the reporting of accidents and with the Chief State Solicitor's Office in the provision of legal advice.

Accounts Branch

OPW's Accounts Branch is responsible for:

- making authorised payments, principally payroll and contractors claims,
- recording, managing and accounting for the Office's financial resources,
- putting forward, effectively and on time, the Office's Estimate requirements and managing expenditure within the voted allocation,
- briefing the Minister and Management Advisory Committee on financial issues.

In 2007, Accounts Branch processed

- 42,100 Instructions to Pay (ITPs),
- 8,600 receipts,
- up to 5,000 travel claims,
- 3,800 rents payments and
- paid the salaries and wages of up to 2,550 staff.

Accounts Branch managed voted and non-voted expenditure totalling €783m, receipts of €144m and €23m in Local Loans repayments.

Apart from the ongoing activities of the Branch, Accounts continued to work closely with the MIF Project Team in developing and enhancing the Integra Financial System including the introduction of a Visibility interface for

measured term contracts. 2007 also saw the presentation of the new Annual Output Statement for the Office to the Dail Seleact Committee on Finance and the Public Service Committee.

The main challenges facing Accounts Branch in 2008 will be the implementation of the Purchase to Pay module of Integra and the monitoring and reporting requirements to oversee capital funding provided under the National Development Plan.

MIF Section

The MIF Section is responsible for the development and implementation of the Management Information Framework in OPW. The Management Information Framework is a framework for managing financial and other resources; linking resources with plans, outputs and reports; and monitoring performance. Its purpose is to achieve a more efficient and effective public service and better outcomes for the public.

A key element of the MIF is the implementation of a modern financial management system. A new financial system, Integra e-Financials, was introduced in OPW in 2006. During 2007, the work of the section focused on the consolidation and development of the Integra system. A number of new financial reports were requested by Business Units and were developed and delivered. An online travel and subsistence module was developed and successfully piloted in two of the

Business Units. Work also proceeded on the provision of a fixed assets module.

Management Accounting Service

During 2007 the strategic focus of the Management Accounting Service continued to be on development of the Management Information Framework project. Development of the 'Integra' financial system concentrated on the Employee Expenses and Fixed Asset modules. Annual and periodic accounts or financial statements were produced in respect of Architectural Services, Procurement Services, Art Management, Financial Services and the Central Engineering Workshops. The Management Accounting Service also has responsibility for compilation of the OPW Capital Asset Register.

Internal Audit

The function of the Internal Audit Unit is to provide an assurance to the Accounting Officer (Chairman) on the adequacy of the internal control systems in OPW.

During 2007 a number of audits were undertaken in relation to internal control systems and compliance with relevant legislation, standards, regulations and procedures.

The Audit Committee oversaw the work of Internal Audit throughout the year.

Art Management Office

The Art Management Office had another busy year visiting galleries, artists' studios and public exhibitions, and commissioning and purchasing contemporary works of art in consultation with client Departments, in pursuance of the Government's Per Cent for Art Scheme. Through the commissioning process, some of the projects undertaken in the year included two commissions for the National Museum of Ireland in Collins Barracks - *100 Paces*, a performance by Seán Taylor and also a perspex installation work by Martina Galvin; a bronze sculpture titled *Sheaf of Cor* by Colm Brennan was installed in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Laboratory at Backweston; a laser cut stainless steel wall sculpture titled *Evidence* by James Hayes

was installed in Oranmore Garda Station; and a bronze and steel sculpture by Michael Burke titled *Containment* was placed in the grounds of the Civil Defence Headquarters in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

Other art projects undertaken involved an exceptional purchase of a large watercolour of Dublin Castle by Michaelangelo Hayes RHA (18-18) which was displayed afterwards in the front hall of OPW for staff to view, before transferring to Dublin Castle. Bronze sculptures of the late Frank Aiken TD and Liam Cosgrave TD were commissioned from artists Robin Buick ARHA and Emma MacDermott on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Gifts of



Colm Brennan Sculpture, Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Backweston Farm



Artwork by James Hayes, Oranmore Garda Station, County Galway

portraits of Seán Lemass TD and Brian Lenihan TD were arranged and installed in Leinster House. The Golden Fleece Awards for young artists were presented by a member of the Art Management Office in the Head Office Atrium in March. The Sothebys and Christies auctions of Irish art were also attended in May. The Art of the State touring exhibition managed in co-operation with the Department of Finance and Personnel of Northern Ireland had its inaugural exhibition at Castletown House in June, where it was formally opened by OPW Minister of State, Noel Ahern TD. The exhibition was titled *Journeys* and featured works by emerging and established artists. The exhibition travelled to the Irish Institute for Ireland in Europe in Leuven, Belgium; the Coast Guard Station Arts Centre, Tramore, Co. Waterford; the University of Ulster in Belfast, and finally to the Millennium Forum in Derry.

A commission was organised and pictures were purchased for the refurbished visitors wing of Áras an Uachtaráin in consultation with President McAleese, and all were installed afterwards. Staff were also busy re-hanging and re-arranging the Houses of the Oireachtas following the General Election. The Art Management Office also participated in the Department of Defence sculpture commission process for a sculpture to be installed in Merrion Square to be erected as a National Memorial to Members of the Defence Forces who died in Service.

Public Relations Department

In 2007 the Public Relations Department successfully dealt with approximately 1,250 queries from the public and media in relation to OPW activities. The production of OPW publications, such as the Annual Report and the biannual "Obair" Magazine, continued to provide the office with an effective method of promoting, both internally and externally, some of the projects, works and tasks undertaken by the OPW. Work on the redesign of all OPW websites continued throughout 2007. The first of the OPW family of websites, "heritageireland.ie", "battleoftheBoyne.ie", and "Castletown.ie" went live during 2007. The main OPW website and others will be relaunched in 2008.

The Public Relations Department continued to provide support services for all OPW related events throughout the country. For the first time ever, in 2007, the Winter Solstice at Newgrange, was streamed live around the world on the Heritage Ireland website. This proved an unqualified success with over 300,000 people "logging on" worldwide to view this iconic event. Archive footage of the event is still available to view at www.heritageireland.ie and it is planned to release a DVD of the event in 2008.

Sculptural relief by Seán McCarthy, Cobh Custom House, County Cork



Castletown House

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Financial Review

Expenditure Programme

The table below shows, on a programme basis, all expenditure managed by OPW in 2007 (2006 figures are shown for comparison). This involves funds granted directly to OPW via Vote 10; funds administered on behalf of the Department of Finance; and expenditure on works and services managed by OPW and paid for by other Government Departments or Agencies.

CAPITAL AND NON CAPITAL		2006	2007
1	Property Management Services		
	1.1 Purchase of sites and buildings	124,214	88,091
	1.2 Rent, rates etc	132,435	134,706
	Programme Total	256,649	222,797
2	Property Maintenance		
	2.1 Maintenance, material and supplies	51,072	65,575
	2.2 Fuel, electricity, water, cleaning materials	1,414	1,329
	2.3 President's Household Staff	747	861
	Programme Total	53,233	67,765
3	Project Management Services		
	3.1 Building Programme	233,343	362,840
	3.2 Flood Relief	14,228	23,115
	3.3 Grant to Zoological Society of Ireland	4,000	4,000
	3.4 Grant for Certain Refurbishment Works	6,726	6,700
	3.5 Grant to Institute for Ireland, Louvain	1,500	1,000
	Programme Total	259,797	397,655
4	Engineering Services		
	4.1 Drainage surveys	1,368	1,390
	4.2 Maintenance Works - Maintenance costs of completed schemes	16,662	19,344
	4.3 Purchase of Engineering plant and machinery	3,036	905
	4.4 Maintenance of Engineering plant and machinery	2,268	2,197
	4.5 Engineering Works for other Departments	2	60
	Programme Total	23,336	23,896
5	Government Supplies Agency		
	5.1 Printing, Publications and Advertising	23,273	22,503
	5.2 General Procurement Services	68,364	54,719
	Programme Total	91,637	77,222
6	Heritage Services		
	6.1 Historic Properties	18,642	18,545
	6.2 National Monuments	16,731	17,974
	6.3 Visitor Services	8,600	9,427
	Programme Total	43,973	45,946
7	Corporate Services		
	7.1 Salaries, wages and allowances	35,621	38,367
	7.2 Travel and subsistence	2,004	1,854
	7.3 Incidental expenses	1,711	2,184
	7.4 Postal and telecommunications services	1,786	1,971
	7.5 Office equipment and other office supplies	4,302	4,296
	7.6 Office premises expenses	1,115	1,373
	7.7 Consultancy Services	143	258
	7.8 Value for Money and Policy Reviews	0	159
	Programme Total	46,682	50,462
8	Funds Managed by OPW on behalf of the Department of Finance		
	8.1 Local Loans	32,981	22,975
	Programme Total	32,981	22,975
Total Gross Expenditure 1		808,288	908,718
This may be reconciled with Vote 10 expenditure as follows:			
Deduct:	Funds Managed by the OPW on behalf of the Department of Finance	32,981	22,975
	Works funded by Government Departments	135,097	178,872
	Supplies for Government Departments	90,722	76,385
	Total	549,488	630,486

Appropriations-in-Aid (receipts) totalled €22,618,915 in 2005

CAPITAL AND NON CAPITAL		2006	2007
Funding of Programmes			
1	OPW funded		
	Vote 10 (Gross)	549,488	630,486
	Total	549,488	630,486
Work funded from the Votes of other Departments			
2	Construction Works & Services		
	Department of Education	13,817	14,643
	Sundry Works	95,597	131,721
	Sundry Rents	10,087	10,255
	Maintenance Works 2	15,596	22,253
Supplies for Government Departments			
	Printing and Stationery	14,580	16,172
	Transport Vehicles	28,976	8,712
	Furniture	8,909	10,283
	Clothing etc	8,152	9,359
	Advertising	8,304	6,430
	Energy	18,740	22,762
	General Cleaning Materials etc.	1,950	1,924
	Artworks	1,111	743
	Total	225,819	255,257
Funds managed by the OPW on behalf of the Department of Finance			
3	Local Loans 3	32,981	22,975
	Total 4	32,981	22,975

1. 2007 outturn figures include capital expenditure of €30.965m incurred in the financial year carried forward from 2006 on Subheads D and E.

2. These involve minor maintenance works on State occupied accommodation.

3. These funds are managed on behalf of the Department of Finance. They involve the re-couplement of loan payments from local authorities twice yearly and early redemption of loans.

4. In addition, Architectural Services certified the payment of sports grants with a capital value of €65.8m for the Department of Arts Sport and Tourism in 2007. OPW provided expertise on the Lansdowne redevelopment programme and the National Sports Campus.

Note: Proceeds from the sale of surplus state property amounted to €3.5m in 2007.

Note: It is the policy of OPW to process invoices without delay. Since 2/1/98 this Office is operating in accordance with the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997.

OPW Awards 2007

Section/Building	Awarding Authority	Award
Castletown House	Local Authority Manager's Association	Best Heritage Building
www.floodmaps.ie	Irish Government Awards 2007	Certificate of Merit: Best Central Irish E-Government Award
www.floodmaps.ie	Innovations Through Technology Awards category.	Award in the "Government to Citizen" category.
www.floodmaps.ie	BT inspired IT awards	Shortlisted in the Government Category
Portumna Castle Garden	Best Landscape Award	Fáilte Ireland-Western Region
7-9 Merrion Row The Billets	Commendation	Dedalo Minosse International Prize
National Botanic Gardens	Gold Award for the "Cherishing Biodiversity" display.	Bloom Garden Festival
National Monuments Ardfert Cathedral, Co.Kerry	RIAI	RIAI Silver Medal for Restoration -
Architectural Services Marine Institute Heasquarters	RIAI	Best Accessible Project
Architectural Services Galway Civic Museum	RIAI	Selected for 2007 Exhibition

Exhibitions and events during 2007 In the Atrium, 51 St. Stephen's Green

13 th - 19 th January	Judging of the AIB Press Photographers Association Photographs
5 th February	Launch of the planned Exploration Station Children's Science Museum
12 th - 18 th February	Danish Embassy – Exhibition of Furniture, lighting from Denmark
13 th March	Golden Fleece Awards Ceremony
28 th March – 19 th April	Embassy of Japan – Shodo Geijutsu – In Foundation (Association of Japanese Calligraphy) 60 th Jubilee Exhibition
24 th April	Reception of mark Irelands participation at the 52 nd Venice Art Biennale 2007
23 rd April – 18 th May	Embassy of Japan – Exhibition “100 years of Tokyo”
24 th May – 8 th June	Embassy of Japan – “Scenes of Childhood: 60 Years of Postwar Japan” Exhibition
2 nd - 29 th August	“SubUrban to SuperRural” The Irish Architecture Foundation was appointed by Cultural Ireland to co-ordinate Ireland's participation in the 2006 Venice Architecture Biennale on the theme of <i>Cities : architecture and society</i> . FKL architects won the Foundations's open competition for a curatorial concept to guide Ireland's entry with SubUrban to SuperRural.
3 rd – 21 September	Exhibition of Paintings by City of Dublin Vocational Education (Students)
24 th – 28 th September	Lundbeck Art Exhibition
1 st – 5 th October	Art Exhibition – Goal Aids Relief
8 th - 26 th October	Stoney Road Press Exhibition
30 th October – 23 rd November	Black Church Studio – Exhibition to celebrate 25years of contemporary and archival fine art print highlighting some of the best print makers in Ireland
26 th November – 7 th December	Danish Renewables – a forum of 12 Danish companies committee to sustainable energy

Office of Public Works

Head Office

Office of the Minister of State,
Office of the Chairman,
Corporate Services,
Property Management Services,
Project Management Services,
Property Maintenance Services,
Architectural Services,
Engineering Services,
Heritage Services
Government Supplies Agency

51 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 647 6000
LoCall: 1890 213 414
Main Fax No: (01) 661 0747
Website: www.opw.ie
E-mail: info@opw.ie

Decentralised Offices

Project Management Services
Heritage Services, Visitor Services
Government Supplies Agency Publications

Unit 20 Lakeside Retail Park,
Claremorris, Co Mayo

(01) 6476000

Personnel and Development Services
Property Management
Property Maintenance

Unit 1
Scurlockstown Business Park
Trim
Co Meath

(01) 6476000

Heritage Services

Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2

(01) 647 6000

Quantity Surveying Section, Professional Accountants

4 - 5 Harcourt Road, Dublin 2

(01) 647 6000

Arterial Drainage – Design Section, Hydrology & Hydrometric Section, Structural Engineering Section

17-19 Lower Hatch Street, Dublin 2

(01) 647 6000

Financial Services

Government Offices, Hebron Road, Kilkenny
LoCall

(056) 7772600
1890 213 424

Government Supplies Agency

51 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2
LoCall

(01) 647 6000
1890 213 434

Government Publications Sales Office,

Sun Alliance House, Molesworth St, Dublin 2

(01) 679 3515

Furniture Branch

Mountshannon Road, Rialto, Dublin 8

(01) 453 1588

Building Maintenance Service

Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7

(01) 702 8811

Dublin Castle Conference Centre

Dublin Castle, Dublin 2

(01) 6458802

Farmleigh

Phoenix Park, Dublin 9

(01) 815 5900

Castletown House

Castletown, Celbridge, Co. Kildare

(01) 6288705

Central Engineering Workshop

Jamestown Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8

(01) 453 4204

Arterial Drainage Maintenance

Newtown, Trim, Co Meath

(046) 943 1352

Fairgreen, Ardee, Co Louth

(041) 685 3256

Robinstown, Mullingar, Co Westmeath

(044) 48332

Ballycraige, Castlebridge, Co Wexford

(053) 24181

Drumbear, Cootehill Road, Monaghan

(047) 83201

Main Street, Headford, Co Galway

(093) 35456

Foxford Road, Ballina, Co Mayo

(096) 22065

Gallows Brae, Lifford, Co Donegal

(074) 914 1273

Corrib Sluice Barrage, Sluice House, Galway

(091) 563 097

Templemungret House, Mungret, Limerick

(061) 227 139

Inch Bridge, Listowel, Co Kerry

(068) 21166

Connaught Harbour, Portumna, Co Galway

(090) 974 1086

Ross Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry

(064) 39835

Hydrology & Hydrometric Services

Main Street, Headford, Co. Galway

(093) 35456

Barrack Street, Athlone, Co Westmeath

(090) 649 2918

Hebron Road, Kilkenny

(056) 777 2641

Fair Green, Ardee, Co Louth

(041) 685 7992

Templemungret House, Mungret, Co Limerick

(061) 209118

Foxford Road, Ballina, Co Mayo

(096) 22065

Regional Architectural Offices

Dublin Castle, Dublin 2

(01) 677 6106

Govt Buildings, St Alphonsus Road, Dundalk, Co Louth

(042) 933 4221

2 Chapel Street, Sligo

(071) 914 2202

Government Offices, High Road, Letterkenny

(074) 912 1365

Barrack Street, Athlone, Co Westmeath

(090) 649 2087

13 Catherine Street, Waterford

(051) 874 134

Government Buildings, Portlaoise

(0502) 21133

Government Buildings, Anne St, Wexford

(053) 22470

14 Old Blackrock Road, Cork

(021) 496 6200

The Demesne, Killarney, Co Kerry	(064) 22300
2 Mallow Street, Limerick	(061) 313 500
Government Offices, Thurles, Co Tipperary	(0504) 21532
16 Eyre Square, Galway	(091) 563 016
Pavilion Road, Castlebar, Co Mayo	(094) 902 1331

National Monuments Depots

Athenry Depot	
District Works Manager, Raheen, Athenry, Co. Galway	091) 844373
Kilkenny Depot	
District Works Manager, Hebron Road Industrial Estate, Kilkenny	(056) 7721813
Killarney Depot	
District Works Manager, Carrigfreaghane, Killarney, Co. Kerry	(064) 32402
Mallow Depot	
District Works Manager, Mallow, Co. Cork	(022) 42278
Dromahair Depot	
District Works Manager, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim	(071) 916 4186
Trim Depot	
District Works Manager, Newtown, Trim, Co. Meath	(046) 943 1506

OPW Offices and Heritage Sites

