



Office of Public Works Annual Report 2005

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Front cover image:-
Irish Architectural Archive,
Merrion Square,
Dublin 2

Inside cover image:-
Aras an Uachtaráin

Foreword from the Minister of State



I am delighted to present this 2005 annual report, which is the 4th annual report during my time here in the Office of Public Works. I would like to acknowledge the commitment, professionalism and hard work of all staff in responding to the challenges that were set during another busy and successful year for the OPW.

There is no doubt that the main emphasis for the Office throughout the year was on the decentralisation process with the continued acquisition of sites and property solutions. By the end of 2005 negotiations have been completed or significantly advanced in 23 locations and I am confident that we will see the programme move into top gear with a constant flow of site acquisitions in the coming months. During the year construction work began on sites in Sligo, Longford, as well as Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

One area that deserves special mention is the release and sale of surplus office accommodation in Dublin. Since the Government's decentralisation announcement OPW have realised a €1/4 billion on the sale of properties, with a remarkable price received for the 'former Veterinary Laboratories' in Ballsbridge last October. This rationalisation and consolidation of office accommodation in Dublin will continue to run in tandem with the Decentralisation rollout.

2005 saw the successful completion of many capital projects such as; the transfer of the State Laboratory from Abbotstown; the provision of the new state of the art Laboratories for the Department of Agriculture also at Backweston, and the relocation of the Marine Institute to Galway. In addition the Office continued its ongoing programmes of refurbishment of Garda Stations, Cultural Institutions and general office accommodation. Perhaps one of the most effective projects initiated and completed in 2005 was the 'New Facilities Building' at Templemore Garda College, Co. Tipperary.

During the year I attended the launch of the Public Exhibition stage of four Flood Relief Scheme proposals in Clonmel, Mallow, Ennis, and most recently Fermoy. I also launched a Public Awareness Campaign to highlight the dangers of flooding and the measures that can be taken to minimise damage caused to people and property. I know that additional funds have been made available to facilitate the studies required for the implementation of the Policy on Flood Risk Management. This represents very real and tangible progress and will provide much needed reassurance for the people and communities concerned.

The management of National Monuments and Historic Properties has been successfully merged into the day-to-day operations of the Office during 2005 and I am convinced that this has led to a more coherent approach to protection and maintenance of our natural heritage and historic built environment.

Tom Parlon, TD

Minister of State at the Department of Finance
with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works

Foreword from Chairman



I am pleased to bring to you the 2005 Annual Report and highlight many of the key objectives that were successfully delivered on during the year. Each year brings with it many new challenges and demands and I am happy to report that yet again the staff of the OPW have shown great professionalism and commitment in achieving our goals.

Decentralisation was uppermost in our work and in our minds with the continued acquisition of sites throughout the country, and priority being given to those 'early mover' organisations. Much work and progress took place in finalising briefs of requirements, while tenders were sought for 8 projects with 'contracts' awarded in two locations.

The reintegration of the National Monuments and Historic Properties Service has been successfully achieved. It is now very much an integral part of the corporate image of the Office of Public Works. It constitutes a very significant addition to our work and presents many exciting opportunities for us in the years ahead.

Following the Government decision to assign OPW the lead role in Flood Risk Management much was accomplished during the year with the staging of a number of Public Exhibitions of proposed major flood relief schemes.

Congratulations must be given to Engineering Services on their "Continuous Professional Development" (CPD) award by the Institute of Engineers in Ireland and indeed to all the other Business Units who successfully retained their I.S.O. accreditations.

2005 saw the beginning of staff moves, both in and out of the Office, for decentralisation purposes and the coming months will see even greater staff movement. I know that this will present challenges to the Office as a whole but I am confident that our implementation plans and well documented practices and procedures provide a sound basis to meet these challenges with confidence.

Thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication.

Sean Benton
Chairman
Office of Public Works



Management Advisory Committee



Séan Benton
Chairman



David Byers
Commissioner



Clare McGrath
Commissioner



Vincent Campbell
Director of
Corporate Services

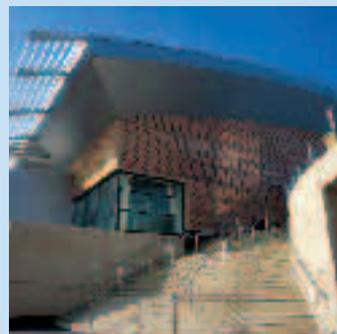
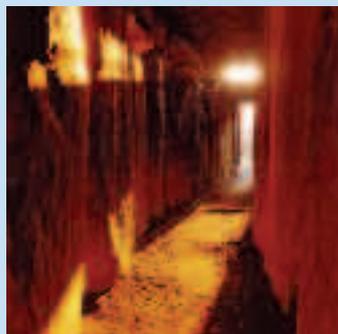


Patrick Cooney
Director of
Architectural Services



Tony Smyth
Director of
Engineering Services

View of the Museum of
Country Life and Turlough
Park House, Co. Mayo.



Strategic Review 2005



Strategic Review

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2005 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work progressed satisfactorily throughout 2005, with approx. 85% of the Vote allocation spent at year end. 	<p>The work programme for 2005 has proceeded broadly to target, with all major projects and programmes generally on target at the end of the year.</p> <p>The shortfall in expenditure of the Voted amount was due to the fact that a substantial portion of monies voted for the purchase of sites for decentralisation had not been spent at the end of the year, notwithstanding that a large number of sites had been identified and terms agreed.</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 voluntarily redeployed staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OPW Decentralisation Implementation Plan, incorporating a formal Risk Analysis, was redrafted in February and again at the end of the year, reflecting the ongoing preparations being made for the move. • A Decentralisation Project Manager was appointed in March to oversee the critical implementation of the project. • In April, work began to ensure the exchange of staff with other Departments who had expressed a preference for the Trim location under the CAF process. • Liaison between the Project team and both the formal Personnel structures and staff interests was developed to help with the communication of relevant issues. 	<p>At this stage, project implementation is concentrating on the Trim location, which Government have decided will be one of the early movers.</p> <p>Administrative Grades only are being dealt with initially, reflecting the fact that the majority of Professional and Technical staff have chosen not to decentralise. Implementation therefore in respect of this group depends on external factors, most particularly agreement between D/Finance and IMPACT.</p> <p>The target date for occupation of the new building in Trim is late 2008.</p>

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2005 Progress	Comment
<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 performance against defined criteria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of existing ISO; • Achievement of accreditation in remaining areas; • Creation of SLA's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing ISO accreditations for OPW services have all been maintained through regular external audits by the NSAI. 	Both GSA and Property Maintenance have documented their processes extensively and are projected to make firm applications for accreditation early in 2006.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining areas yet to achieve accreditation (GSA & Property Maintenance Services) continued throughout the year to develop documentation on their systems and processes. • A draft Service Level Agreement for Project Management Services is currently with the National Gallery of Ireland. 	The SLA contemplated with the National Gallery could, if agreed, provide a template for similar arrangements with other customers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of feedback mechanisms, surveys etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Customer survey assessing OPW's performance against defined Customers Service standards was undertaken early in 2005. It sought the views of a variety of customers who had recourse to the full range of OPW's services. 	<p>The survey undertaken during 2005 will provide a basis for further surveys planned for 2006 and beyond.</p> <p>Future surveys of internal customers, particularly in the delivery of corporate services are also planned.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurement of service performance against benchmarks and external comparators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some progress has been made in identifying a comparator for Project Management Services in Northern Ireland. 	The proposed benchmarking exercise has been temporarily deferred by our NI partner. This work will be recommenced in 2006.
<p>4. To be the provider of choice for customers in the areas of general procurement, property management and all construction-related services solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise Government in relation to cutting-edge procurement methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPW have advised Government and customer Departments and Agencies throughout 2005 in relation to both property and Value for Money aspects of a number of specific high level projects:: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lansdowne Road redevelopment; - Courts PPP options; - Decentralised offices PPP options. -National Conference Centre. 	Future initiatives of Government will be met on an as-required basis

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2005 Progress	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPW pursued a 2005 project to seek partners for equity swaps in a number of locations. • OPW sponsored projects won a number of awards during 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIAI award for Architectural Archive building; - Successful completion of State Lab. and Marine Institute projects; - Clonmel Flood Protection scheme. 	<p>The equity swap project did not result in any development projects - however, it has established OPW as a presence in the market which will lead to potential opportunities in the future.</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 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. • Deliver on flood risk management work programmes and projects (structural and non-structural flood relief measures). • Develop and disseminate Flood Hazard Mapping information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft Implementation Programme, including allocation of resources in 2006 and beyond was agreed during 2005 with the Department of Finance. • Initial contact has been made with the Departments of the Marine and the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to progress the promised consultative framework. • Launch of Flood awareness website. • Progress on the Flood Hazard mapping project. 	

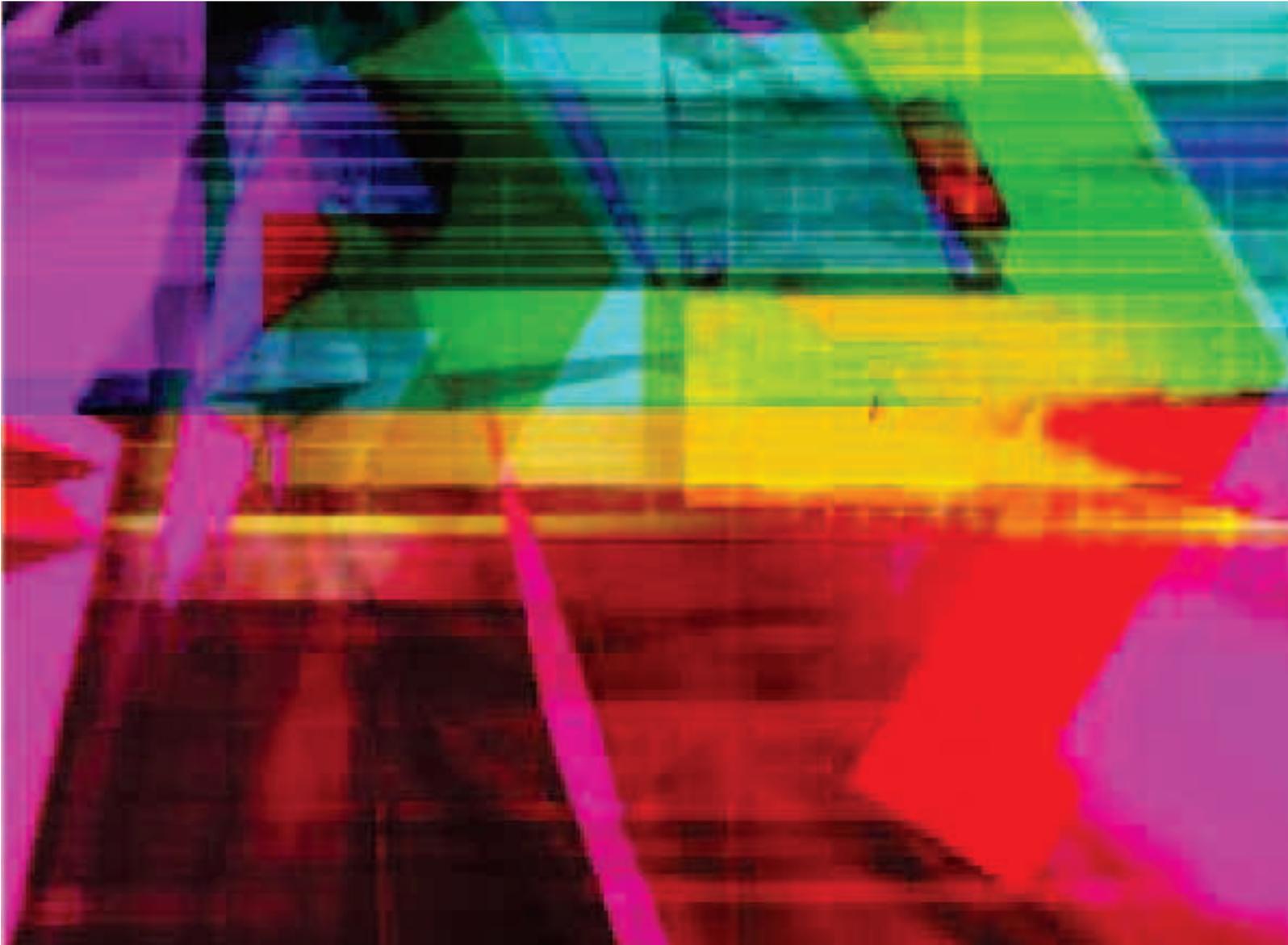
Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2005 Progress	Comment
6. To achieve greater efficiency in the use of State property assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing review of property portfolio to ensure best value for money. • Liaison with appropriate parties (i.e. Local Authorities and State agencies) to ensure that property potential is maximised. • Development of Joint Venture proposals with third parties. • Disposals where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of initiatives / projects were progressed throughout the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Westgate proposal; - Sale of the St. John's Road site; - Sale of 72 - 76 St. Stephens Green building; - Development of "Preferred Developer" type initiatives. - Sale of Shelbourne Rd. site (former Vet. College); - Appointment of Strategic Property adviser within the Valuation Service. 	
7. To maximise the opportunities to provide greater public access to heritage sites and present them to visitors	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The active reintegration of the Heritage Services progressed throughout 2005. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progressive re-badging of heritage sites; - Integration of IT systems; - Restructuring of HR Divisions. 	<p>Sharing of expertise / provision of professional advice/ support being provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities Management; - Parks (Phoenix Park / St. Stephens Green.) - Architectural Services (Conservation).
8. To sustain a positive approach to the Partnership model as a vehicle for improving communication and ensuring staff input into policy development.	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Partnership structures, including Working Groups, functioning normally within agreed parameters and remits; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Team promoted active policies on recycling / efficient use of energy within the office; - Strategy Work Group contributed actively to the debate in relation to Decentralisation; 	<p>Partnership structures continue to develop in line with the new direction given within the 2005 - 2008 Statement of Strategy.</p> <p>Renewal of the membership of Partnership Committee and Working Groups are being addressed as ongoing items. The debate has also started about the future of Partnership within OPW, particularly in a decentralised context.</p>

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2005 Progress	Comment
8. continued	staff at local level within Business Units.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communications Work Group began to address the issue of improving communications within OPW; - Merit Award group organised events to reward good staff performance. • New Regional structures set up in West / South West; • Annual Work Programme prepared and published. 	
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of new HR Strategy • Embedding PMDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership HRM Working Group continued to meet throughout the year to develop an agreed HRM Strategy draft. • Specific action was taken throughout 2005 to reinforce PMDS practice using the mechanism of Sustaining 	<p>During 2005, the Partnership HRM Working Group decided to refocus the HRM Strategy with a view to scaling back on the scope of the original proposal. It will now have a timeframe up to Q1 2008 and in terms of action items, will concentrate on short term issues which are achievable within the decentralisation context.</p> <p>The process of continuing to establish PMDS as a mainstream management function will continue in 2006.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Peoplesoft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed with D/Finance that OPW will be reached in the implementation rollout in May 2006. 	<p>The Peoplesoft project is now being handled centrally by CMOD and rolled out progressively by them to Departments and Offices on a shared services basis.</p>
10. To develop efficient corporate reporting arrangements to disseminate critical work activity and financial information and to support informed and timely decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of MIF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Financial Management System will go live in April 2006. This will be an integral part of the new system and will be followed by later phases in the development of the MIF which will expand the role of the system in the management of the Office. 	<p>Progress has been made in respect of making tender / bid material available electronically to facilitate the contracting community.</p> <p>Advances have been made locally within Business Units where preparations have been made for the delivery of e-services; this includes the regular provision of material such as design</p>

Key Objectives	Performance Indicator	2005 Progress	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of e-Strategy initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout 2005, priority was given to a number of important in-house IT projects designed to prepare OPW for a fuller participation in e-Strategy initiatives in the future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reintegration of Heritage Services; - Planning and preparation for operation of IT services in a decentralised context. 	<p>information and specifications in electronic formats</p>



Customer Services



Customer Charter

The OPW is first and foremost a service organisation. Its ethos is client focus, timely delivery and value for money. The operations of OPW are carried out by seven Business Units:

- Project Management Services.
- Property Management Services.
- Property Maintenance Services.
- Architectural Services.
- Engineering Services.
- Government Supplies Agency.
- Heritage Services.

Mission Statement

To deliver, in support of Government policies, high-quality services in property, design, construction and procurement on time and in budget.

The OPW is committed to providing you, our customer, with an excellent service. This Charter sets out the standards of service you can expect from us. It should be read in parallel with our Customer Service Action Plan, which details our approach to planning for good customer service across the 12 Civil Service Principles for Quality Customer Service.

OPW Customer Service Standards

We have categorised our Service Standards under 5 broad themes:

- 1. General Response;**
- 2. Information;**
- 3. Equality;**
- 4. Mission Delivery;**
- 5. Complaints and Appeals.**

General Response

We aim to provide services consistently at times and venues that suit our customers.

Telephone Enquiries

- We will generally be available to answer telephone enquiries during normal office hours (9.15am-1.00pm and 2.15pm-5.30pm Monday-Friday [5.15pm Friday])*

** Some regional/local offices staffed primarily by operational project/site staff may not be occupied at all times within these hours.*

If specific staff are not available to speak with you when you call, we will ensure that you are assisted in their absence.

Written Communication

- We will acknowledge all written enquiries and nonroutine correspondence (including faxes and email) promptly and will aim to give a comprehensive reply to at least 95% of all such correspondence within twenty working days at the latest.

Personal Callers

- We will be available to meet with you by appointment during normal working hours (see above). We will be as flexible as possible if you need to have an appointment scheduled outside these hours.

Providing Information

We recognise the importance of meeting the expectations of our customers for information that is timely, accurate and relevant to their needs.

Freedom of Information

- We will fulfil all statutory requirements in relation to making information available within the specified time.
- We will make every effort to ensure that simple requests are dealt with outside the scope of the relevant legislation with minimum inconvenience to requesters.

Website

- We will maintain the OPW Website so as to ensure relevance, accuracy and ease of use for users.
- We will, where appropriate and feasible, provide links from our website to other relevant sources of information on the Internet.
- We will provide for a contact facility for users of the website and will aim to respond to any issues raised there within twenty working days.

General Information

- We will ensure that all generally available information is accessible in both electronic and printed format, if required.

Equality of treatment

We are committed to providing services to all our customers on an equal status basis. This means that we will accommodate the needs of specific customers or groups of customers with a view to achieving an equality of treatment.

Physical access

- We will ensure that public areas (*) within our premises and sites are accessible (**) to all callers.
- We will, on behalf of our Customer Departments, Offices and Agencies, ensure that any new buildings or premises we provide them will be accessible by all. We will, on a progressive basis, deal with older buildings and premises to ensure that they are also rendered accessible.

** Due to the nature of some sites, not all areas within certain Heritage sites or local operational offices may be fully accessible at all times.*

*** Access to certain areas in OPW sites and buildings may be controlled from time to time on Health and Safety grounds.*

Language Equality

- We will fulfil the requirements of the Official Languages Act 2003 in regard to the needs of our Irish language customers.
- We will ensure that anyone communicating with us in writing in Irish will receive a reply in the same language.
- We will aim over time to ensure that anyone wishing to communicate through the Irish language will be accommodated.

Mission Delivery

We are committed to providing efficient services to our customers in line with the key elements of our Mission Statement.

Fit for Purpose

- We will ensure the basic fitness for purpose of any building or premises which we provide to our customers.

Quality Services

- We undertake to give a quality service in all of the core areas detailed in our Mission Statement (property, design, construction and procurement) and in the provision of Heritage Services.

Timeliness and Cost

- We will aim to deliver services on time and in budget.

Dealing with Problems

We undertake to provide a clear, simple system for processing complaints and appeals.

Complaints*

- Customer Service Officers within Business Units (**) will initially deal with complaints. If there is no resolution at that level, an internal appeal may be made to the relevant Head of Section** (Principal Officer, Assistant Principal Architect or Assistant Chief Engineer.)

Within the Heritage Services, complaints in relation to service delivery at visitor sites can be made to the Guide or the Guide Supervisor on the site in question. Where no Guide service is available or if the complaint relates to another aspect of services offered by the Heritage Service, then the complaint should be made directly to the Customer Services Officer for that area**.

* The term "complaint" is deemed not to include any legal or other claims for which a separate procedure already exists or is set out in law.

** Contact details for Customer Service Officers, POs, APAs and ACEs are provided at Appendices 2 & 3 of the OPW Customer Service Action Plan.

Appeals

- If the issue cannot be dealt with at OPW level, an appeal may be made to the Office of the Ombudsman.



Review of Customer Service Measures Actions.

This section of the Annual Report is provided in compliance with the undertaking in the Customer Service Action Plan 2004 - 2007 to review on an annual basis the measures taken throughout the year in relation to improving the levels and quality of customer service in OPW.

This follows publication of the OPW Customer Charter and the OPW Customer Service Action Plan in mid 2004. The Charter set out for the first time the five areas where OPW sought to set out defined levels of customer service standards:

- General Response
- Information
- Equality
- Mission Delivery
- Complaints and Appeals

• Customer Survey.

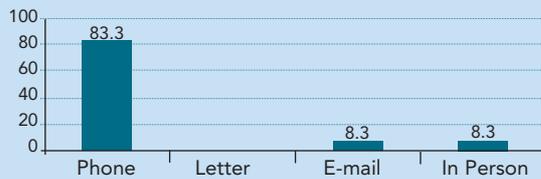
Early in 2005, work was completed on a customer survey covering a representative sample of OPW's customers across all Business Units. The survey was conducted in two parts:

- A written survey seeking customers' responses in relation to how OPW was delivering in relation to the five Customer Service standards areas;
- An oral interview exploring the issues raised and seeking some further details to supplement the written responses given.

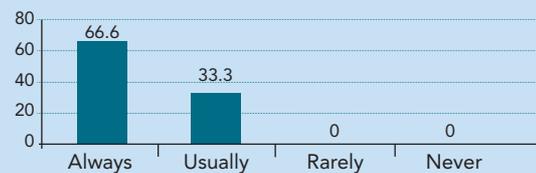
The responses given in the written survey are shown below:

General Response

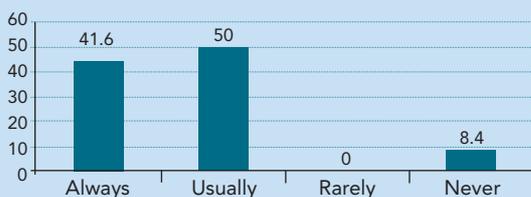
1. What is your most frequent means of contacting the OPW?



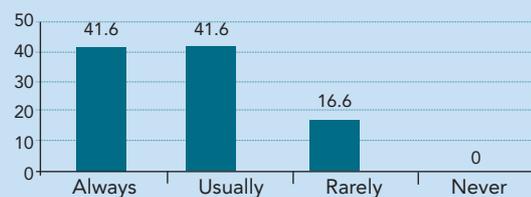
2. If you have contacted the OPW by phone, has your call been answered promptly (including returning voicemail messages)?



3. If you have contacted the OPW by e-mail, letter or fax, has your communication been dealt with promptly?



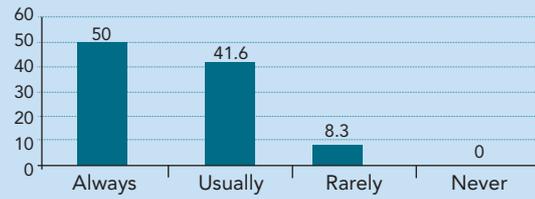
4. Has it been easy for you to find the right person in the OPW to deal with your questions and requests?



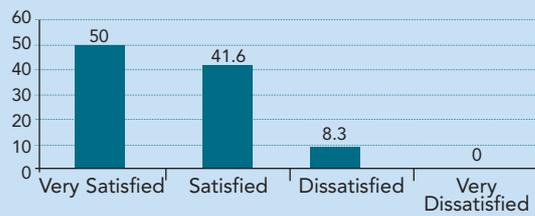
5. What is your main source of information about OPW's services?



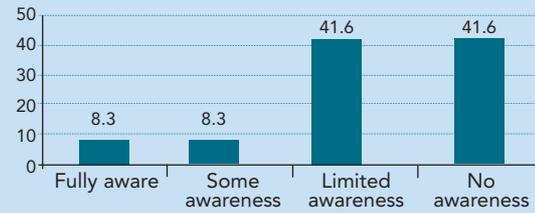
6. Have you found information OPW provides directly about its services, through whatever source, clear?



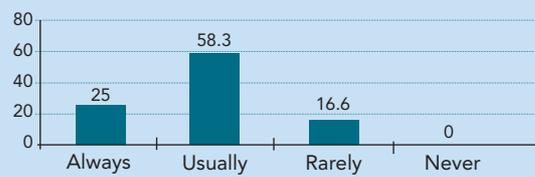
7. Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of the information that you receive from the OPW?



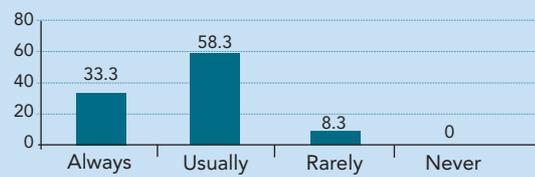
8. Are you aware of the OPW's Universal Access Programme?



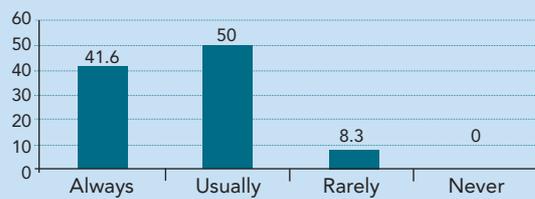
9. Is the OPW doing enough in your view to help you to meet the needs of your customers with special access needs?



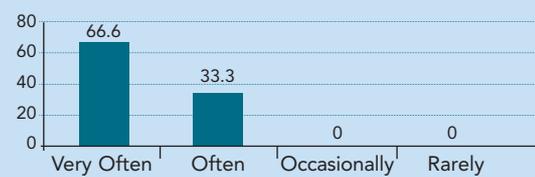
10. Have you been able to access information about the OPW and its services in a format that suits you?



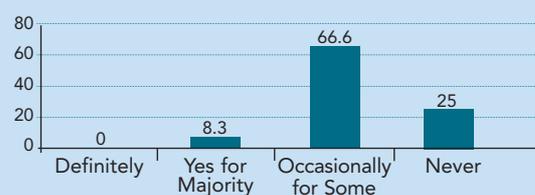
11. Does the OPW, in your view, meet the promise in its Mission Statement in respect of the services it delivers to you?



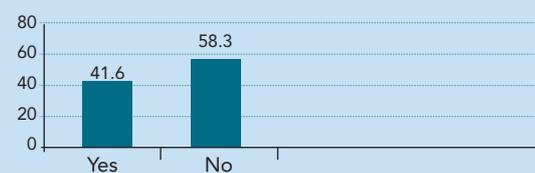
12. How regularly have you availed of the OPW services?



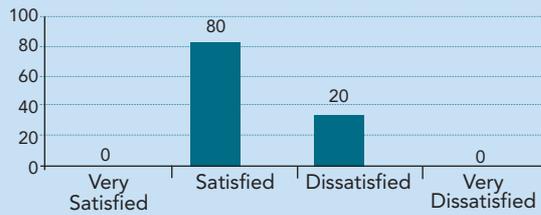
13. If you had an alternative service provider for OPW services for which you had to pay, would you avail of them?



14. Have you ever made a complaint to the OPW relating to the quality of service you have received?



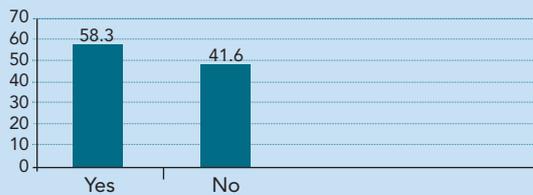
15. If yes, how satisfied were you with the way in which your complaint was dealt with?



16. How aware are you about the OPW's complaints procedures?



17. Do you deal regularly with more than one OPW Business Unit?

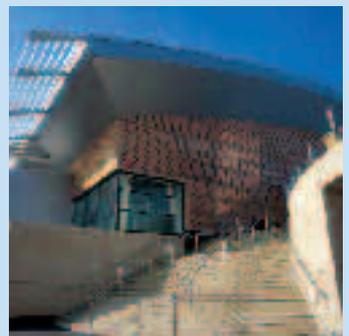
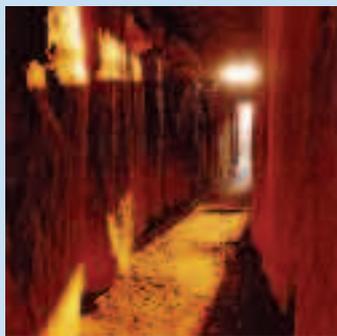


Based on the survey, the following recommendations were approved by OPW MAC:

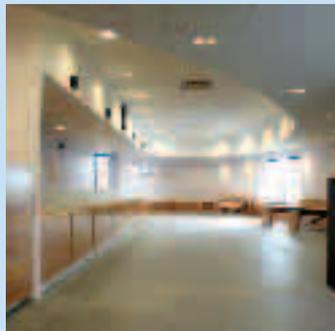
1. The operation of voicemail should be monitored continuously to ensure that it continues to be used properly in support of the delivery of Quality Customer Services.
2. Future analyses of the interactions with Customers should include specific exercises designed to measure speed of written responses.
3. There should be an awareness campaign in respect of the Universal Access Programme among relevant customers and customer groups;
4. A specific set of instructions should be developed for those customers who need to use the maintenance helpdesk service;
5. A clear policy in regard to the OPW Website should be developed, including an assessment of the level of time and resources we are prepared to invest to make it useful to visitors
6. The training plan, including specific resources allocation, should be developed for new entrants coming to the OPW on decentralisation; this should include specific customer service training measures with the aim to develop techniques designed to ensure they can build new customer relationships;
7. Overall internal control of Customer Surveys should remain with the PR Office, supported by other elements of Corporate Services and the QCS Network as appropriate;
8. Internal resources should be supplemented by outsourced professional parties to provide general advice in relation to survey design and deal with some operational aspects;
9. Future survey activity should be properly resourced in terms of finance particularly within the Admin. budget.
10. Future surveys should address the question of the Internal Customer with a view to assessing the performance of Corporate Services Division.
11. Actions resulting from Customer Surveys, including this Survey, should be communicated to relevant customers - specifically, customers should be offered the opportunity to communicate with Senior Management in relation to actions taken as a result of feedback received through surveys;



Kilrush Garda
District Headquarters



Operations Review 2005



OPW Decentralisation

Progress continues to be made in relation to the various aspects associated with the Decentralisation of OPW to Trim (OPW HQ), Claremorris and Kanturk.

The main emphasis during the year was on developing the Trim project, which will be the new OPW Headquarters, following the selection of the Trim location as one of the "early movers" announced by the Decentralisation Implementation Group (DIG) in June.

An Implementation Plan for the decentralisation of OPW has been prepared, including a detailed Risk Assessment identifying the major areas needing attention during the project. Both the Implementation Plan and the Risk Analysis will be continually revised, in line with the ongoing requirements of the DIG implementation phase.

Trim Building Project

An architectural design competition for the Trim building was held internally within the OPW Architectural Services. The winning design, submitted by Mr. Patrick Boyle of Architectural Services 4, was developed and formed a key part of the building design framework that was submitted to the market. Tenders were submitted in December 2005 for the development of the new offices on a Client-led Design Build basis. The successful tenderer will, following award, proceed to the planning and construction stages with a view to completing the building before the end of 2008.

Human Resources

A Project Manager for the Decentralisation Project, Mr. Michael Fennelly, was appointed in March 2005. His role is to manage all aspects of the OPW's Decentralisation project and, in line with the Implementation Plan and the Risk Analysis, to coordinate the necessary activities to ensure that it takes place in the timeframe set out by Government.

The primary focus for the Project Manager throughout the year was twofold:

- Developing detailed action plans for the different business areas so as to minimise the risks arising to continuity of service;
- Managing the intake of staff arriving in OPW, principally from the Central Applications Facility (CAF), the online system designed to register applicants for each of the locations involved.

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

Transforming State Assets

- The examination of the State property portfolio, with a view to identifying vacant, under-utilised, under-developed or surplus property is continuing.
- To date the process has produced a number of properties deemed suitable for detailed assessment to determine their potential for disposal or redevelopment.
- In each case it is essential to have perfection of title. This may involve long, tedious investigation of burdens, covenants, ground rent, etc., and in many cases involves the registration of property. The legal work involved in the perfection of title is outside the control of OPW and is dependant on available resources in the Chief State Solicitors Office or on the Land Registry.
- In maximising the potential of particular properties, a range of considerations are being taken into account, including: -
 - (i) the planning issues in the context of their development potential;
 - (ii) their overall condition;
 - (iii) the extent to which decisions on decentralisation might impact on them;
 - (iv) the alternative use to which they might be put;
 - (v) their likely market value.
- Final decisions on disposal / redevelopment will follow the completion of the detailed assessment of each of the properties in question.

This resulted in two large sales in the Dublin area in 2005:

- **St. John's Road:** This was a joint sale between Eircom and the Office of Public Works to maximise the return to the State. Planning permission was obtained for a major development on the site prior to sale. This increased the value from €22m to €94m.
- The sale of the **Former Veterinary College site in Ballsbridge, Dublin 4** for €171.5m represents the largest sale ever achieved by OPW. Since the Government decentralisation announcement OPW will have realised over €300m on the sale of surplus or under-utilised State properties.

Properties Disposed of in 2005

Building	Price	Closing Date
Dungloe former SWO, Co. Donegal	300,000.00	5th May 2005
Kilronan Coastguard Station, Galway - sale of site to Udaras	1,416.53	14th Jul 2005
* St. John's Road (Westgate), Dublin	44,916,551.79	10th Aug 2005
16 Eyre Square, Galway - plot of land	9,920.59	18th Aug 2005
Ballinskelligs former Garda Station, Co. Kerry	409,693.03	30th Aug 2005
Leighlinbridge Garda Station, Co. Carlow - surplus plot of land	165,000.00	13th Oct 2005
Ashbourne Garda Station, Co. Meath - sale of surplus land	2,125,000.00	25th Oct 2005
* Former Veterinary College, Shelbourne Road, Dublin 4.	171,556,000.00	30th Novr 2005
26-27 Eden Quay - former Mercantile Office, Dublin 1	4,205,000.00	21st Dec 2005
Rathmichael (Chantilly) - Compensation for Road Widening	5,162,202.65	Dec 2005
Lynch's Lodge Hotel, Macroom, Co. Cork	2,300,000.00	8th Dec 2005

- Disposal of other properties and sites will be ongoing in 2006.
- To further use of State Lands for the Sustaining Progress Affordable Housing Initiative, two sites were identified:

1. Infirmary Road, Dublin 7.
2. Jamestown Road, Inchicore.

The transfer is being finalised with Dublin City Council.

- Following Government decisions two sites are in the final stages of being transferred to **The Affordable Homes Partnership:**

1. Part of Harcourt Terrace Garda Station site, Dublin 2.
2. Broc House, Dublin 4.

The combined value of the four sites is in the order of €30 - €50m.

2005 Market Overview

The Dublin office rental market

The year 2005 saw the completion of some 110,000 square metres of new office space, which represented an approximate 50% increase on the previous year; most of it located in the city centre, Dublin 2 and Dublin 4. The level of uptake of new space was slightly lower than in 2004, with most activity occurring in the last quarter. Overall vacancy rates were largely unchanged from 2004; depending on the measure used they were slightly higher or slightly lower than last year. However, this overall trend masks significant regional variation. Uptake was higher in the prime central letting area, particularly for modern space but there is still a considerable surplus in other locations, e.g. Dublin 1, 7 and 8.

There has been some evidence of rental growth, particularly in large modern, well-located offices. However, older less well-located premises are proving more difficult to let with a significant, but decreasing level of incentives still available.

The impact of decentralisation

Reflecting the impact of the decentralisation programme, the Office was not very active in acquiring property in Dublin in 2005. Where space was acquired it was for the purpose of meeting special local needs. On the other hand, the Office has been very active in acquiring sites or buildings to accommodate the new regional offices of the decentralising Departments. To date, negotiations are completed or at a significantly advanced stage in 23 locations. In the case of 5 locations, OPW owned sites have been identified and will be used to accommodate decentralised offices. In the case of another 6 locations sites have been acquired from Local Authorities. In the balance of the 23 locations, privately owned sites have been either acquired or are close to being acquired.

Over the next two to three years, the Office's property focus will turn more and more to the acquisition of properties and sites in the regions to meet the accommodation requirement of decentralising Departments.

In Dublin, the focus will increasingly be on the disposal, surrender and rationalisation of the space, which will be vacated by Departments relocating to the provinces.

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 2005 completed the successful disposal of some major property holdings in Dublin and throughout the country, for prices that were regarded in many cases as exceptional. The sale of a State owned site at Shelbourne Road was particularly noteworthy in that it achieved a record price per acre. This orderly disposal programme will continue as under utilised sites are identified and the portfolio is rationalised following decentralisation. In this way, the State will ensure the optimum use of its property assets and gain maximum value from the portfolio.

Rent Reviews

The OPW continued to actively manage the rent review programme for its leased properties. Where possible settlement was reached by agreement but a number of cases where it was felt that a reasonable agreement was not forthcoming, were referred to third party for determination.

2005 Acquisitions

County	Location	Property Name	Date Acquired	Purchase Cost
Cork	Clonakilty	Clonakilty Dept. Communications, Marine & Natural Resources & BIM Site	2-Sep-05	2875000
Donegal	Buncrana	Buncrana Dept. Social and Family Affairs Site	13-Oct-05	1105860
Donegal	Bunbeg	Bunbeg Coast Guard Stn Site	14-Apr-05	27934
Kerry	Castleisland	Castleisland Garda Station Site	13-Oct-05	1350000
Leitrim	Drumshanbo	Dept. of Agriculture and Food, Drumshanbo DVO Site	22-Aug-05	140000
Limerick	Newcastle West	Newcastle West Revenue Site	15-Jul-05	325000
Longford	Longford	Irish Prison Services HQ Site - Longford	21-Mar-05	576250

New Leases 01 January 2005 - 31 December 2005 - Dublin

County	Location	Property Name	Dept.	Commence	Expiry	Rentable SqM	Annual Rent	Car Spaces
Dublin	Dublin 01	Great Strand St Millennium Hse	Ombudsman for Children	4-Apr-05	4-Apr-25	904.67	265675	7
Dublin	Dublin 02	Harcourt St 71 Pinebrook House	Justice Equality & Law Reform	6-Jul-05	24-Mar-15	590	200000	4
Dublin	Dublin 02	Harcourt St 72-74 Pinewood Hse	Justice Equality & Law Reform	6-Jul-05	24-Mar-15	3249	1419143	54
Dublin	Dublin 02	Nassau St Social Srv Insp Unit	Health & Children	20-Jun-05	19-May-15	232.58	87622.06	0
Dublin	Dublin 07	Blackhall Plce Smithwick Tribu	Justice Equality & Law Reform	14-Nov-05	14-Aug-10	627.91	375000	15
Dublin	Dublin 08	Garden Lane Prob/ Welfare Off	Probation & Welfare Service	25-Mar-05	31-Mar-25	316.14	55980	5
Dublin	Dublin 15	Damastown IMMA Warehouse	Irish Museum of Modern Art	25-Aug-05	24-Jul-15	969.32	99123	0
Dublin	Swords	Swords CSO Office	Central Fisheries Board	28-Sep-05	27-Sep-29	1261.62	231443.68	33
Dublin	Swords	Swords CSO Office	Central Fisheries Board	28-Sep-05	27-Sep-25	931.71	173226.5	28
Dublin	Swords	Swords CSO Office	Central Statistics Office	13-Jun-05	15-Sep-25	864.84	181490.55	27

New Leases 01 January 2005 - 31 December 2005 - Regional

County	Location	Property Name	Dept.	Commence	Expiry	Rentable SqM	Annual Rent
Cavan	Bailieborough	Cavan Census Office	Central Statistics Office	19-Sep-05	30-Jun-06	60.39	6,500.00
Cork	Cork	Cork C&E Centre Park House	Revenue Commissioners	6-May-05	5-Feb-15	314.00	43,940.00
Cork	Cork	Cork C&E Centre Park House	Commissioners Revenue	6-May-05	5-Feb-15	N/A	38,180.00
Cork	Cork	Cork DAF Cityhall Carpark	Agriculture Food & Rural Dev	5-Dec-05	4-Dec-06	N/A	36,000.00
Cork	Cork	Cork Prob & Wel Serv Cove St	Probation & Welfare Service	1-Apr-05	31-Mar-25	1,483.82	283,982.00
Donegal	Ballyshannon	Ballyshannon Maritime Office	Comm Marine & Natural Resources	1-Jan-05	30-Sept-14	264.00	25,000.00
Donegal	Ballyshannon	Ballyshannon Maritime Office	Comm Marine & Natural Resources	26-Sep-05	25-Dec-06	18.00	3,380.00
Donegal	Letterkenny	Letterkenny Prob/ Wel Main St	Probation & Welfare Service	1-Feb-05	31-Jan-25	561.02	80,000.00
Galway	Galway	Galway Gov Off Hynes Building	Social Comm & Family Affairs	1-Jul-05	31-Dec-20	1,333.17	222,425.00
Kildare	Nass	Naas Millennium Park	I.A.A.S.A.	5-Sep-05	4-Sep-25	607.48	119,163.00
Kildare	Kildare	Kildare Census Office	Central Statistics Office	1-Oct-05	30-Jun-06	30.00	10,400.00
Kilkenny	Kilkenny	Kilkenny Census Office	Central Statistics Office	29-Jun-05	30-Jun-06	38.50	6,216.00
Laois	Portlaoise	Portlaoise Agric Office Eircom	Agriculture Food & Rural Dev	25-Apr-05	24-Jan-01	1,323.82	191,000.00
Laois	Mountmellick	Mountmellick Census Office	Central Statistics Office	1-Sep-05	30-Jun-06	38.00	12,000.00
Limerick	Limerick	Limerick Gov Off Houston Hall	Central Statistics Office/Agriculture Food & Rural Dev	1-May-05	30-Apr-25	2,669.64	373,568.00
Louth	Dromad	Dromad GS Temporary	Garda Siochana	1-Dec-05	30-Nov-06	100.00	21,000.00
Louth	Drogheda	Drogheda SWO	Social Comm & Family Affairs	23-Sep-05	22-Aug-15	257.00	70,533.00
Louth	Dundalk	Dundalk Education Office	Education & Science	1-Jan-05	30-Sep-07	66.00	9,570.00
Louth	Drogheda	Drogheda Agriculture Car Pk	Agriculture Food & Rural Dev	19-Dec-05	19-Dec-06	0	18,150.00
Mayo	Castlebar	Castlebar Census Office	Central Statistics Office	1-Sep-05	30-Jun-06	52.00	6,400.00
Meath	Navan	Navan Gov Office Athlumney	Revenue Comm., Agriculture Food & Rural Dev, Environment & Local Gov., Probation & Wel. Service, Transport, Nat Ed Psych Service, Education & Science	28-Sep-05	27-Sep-26	3,217.67	575,000.00

County	Location	Property Name	Dept.	Commence	Expiry	Rentable SqM	Annual Rent
Meath	Navan	Navan Census Office	Central Statistics Office	1-Sep-05	30-Jun-06	150.00	12,000.00
Offaly	Tullamore	Tullamore Education Warehouse	Education & Science	12-May-05	11-Feb-15	529.54	25,365.00
Roscommon	Boyle	Boyle Education Office	Education & Science	1-Sep-09	31-May-15	33.44	5,760.00
Sligo	Sligo	Sligo Pensions Services Office	Social Comm & Family Affairs	14-Jul-05	2-Jan-24	0	105,000.00
Sligo	Sligo	Sligo OPW Office Temp	Office of Public Works	1-Oct-05	30-Sept-06	325.00	6,500.00
Sligo	Sligo	Sligo Census 2006 Office	Central Statistics Office	1-Oct-05	30-Sept-06	39.48	6,800.00
Tipperary	Tipperary	Tipperary Justice Office	Private Security Authority	1-Sep-05	31-Aug-07	428	69,150.00
Tipperary	Thurles	Thurles Gda Vetting Unit Temp	Justice Equality & Law Reform	1-Sep-05	31-Aug-07	17.00	1,518.90
Tipperary	Thurles	Thurles Gda Vetting Unit Temp	Justice Equality & Law Reform	1-Sep-05	31-Aug-07	376.00	64,736.00
Tipperary	Thurles	Thurles CSO	Central Statistics Off	29-May-05	30-Jun-06	92.90	18,200.00
Westmeath	Mullingar	Mullingar Census 2006 Office	Central Statistics Off	1-Oct-05	30-Jun-06	150.00	12,000.00
Wexford	Enniscorthy	Enniscorthy SWO Portsmouth Hse	Social Comm & Family Affairs	1-Apr-05	28-Feb-15	181.16	25,000.00
Wexford	New Ross	New Ross Census Off	Central Statistics Off	1-Sep-05	30-Jun06	88.26	13,000.00
Wicklow	Wicklow	Wicklow Census Off	Central Statistics Off	1-Sept-05	30-Jun-06	54.00	10,800.00

Surrendered Property 01 January 2005 - 31 December 2005 - Dublin

Property Name	Location	County	Dept	Surrender Date	Annual Rent
Frederick St South 5-9	Dublin 02	Dublin	Chief State Solicitor	30-Sept-05	950,001.00
Gloucester Street South Car Park	Dublin 02	Dublin	Various	19-Feb-05	22,000.00
Dublin Airport Collinstown House	Dublin Airport	Dublin	Met Eireann	27-Sep-05	5,724.60

Surrendered Property 01 January 2005 - 31 December 2005 - Regional

Property Name	Location	County	Dept	Surrender Date	Annual Rent
Cork Beasley Street Car Park	Cork	Cork	Social and Family Affairs	12-Apr-05	1,816.00
Doneraile Wildlife Office Temp	Doneraile	Cork	Arts, Sport & Tourism	16-Mar-05	4,621.85
Letterkenny Prob & Wel Serv	Letterkenny	Donegal	Justice, Equality & Law Reform	25-Jul-05	12,062.51
Galway Gov Off Hynes Building	Galway	Galway	Agriculture & Food, Social & Family Affairs	30-Jun-05	55,250.00
Galway Gov Off Ross House	Galway	Galway	Education & Science and others	12-Apr-05	13,205.28
Kilmallock SWO	Kilmallock	Limerick	Social and Family Affairs	07-Mar-05	7,262.90
Navan DTC Temp	Navan	Meath	Transport	12-Feb-05	1,420.00
Roscommon Agric Office	Roscommon	Roscommon	Agriculture & Food	09-Jun-05	65,557.80
Roscommon Agriculture Office	Roscommon	Roscommon	Agriculture & Food	09-Jun-05	41,901.36
Ballymote SWO	Ballymote	Sligo	Social and Family Affairs	23-Jan-05	4,129.20
Wexford Family Med Services	Wexford	Wexford	Social and Family Affairs	03-Jun-05	15,236.86

Facilities and Event Management

Dublin Castle.

The Dublin Castle Conference facilities and the visitor services in the Dublin Castle complex generally had a very busy year in 2005. 501 separate events took place in the complex and 151,080 people visited the State Apartments, participating in approximately 6,500 individual guided tours.

As usual, the nature of the events held in the Castle complex was varied and included State dinners, international conferences, music concerts and art exhibitions. The total attendance at these events was in the region of 55,000.

The aforementioned event management and visitor services functions are a central part of the work undertaken by the OPW staff in Dublin Castle. The Dublin Castle management team also provide a full property management service to all the occupants of the Dublin Castle complex and the successful performance of this aspect of their work continued in 2005.



The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham (RHK)

The OPW Facilities and Event Management Unit support, in association with the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), the conference and event management operation at the prestige RHK venue. The RHK had a very successful year in 2005 hosting 90 events during the year with a total attendance of approximately 20,024 people



Farmleigh

Farmleigh played host to a number of important State visits during 2005 including residential stays by Heads of State and leading dignitaries from Japan, Canada, Hungary and Bulgaria.

In addition to overnight stays by visiting dignitaries in 2005 Farmleigh hosted 64 high level Government events attended by 3,236 delegates.

The success of Farmleigh's public access programme was consolidated in 2005 with over 180,000 visitors attending the various open days, guided tours and free public events from March through to December.

The visitor facilities at Farmleigh were further improved during the year with the opening of a new exhibition space, the Farmleigh Gallery, in late 2005.



Aras an Uachtarain

The Facilities and Event Management Unit's role in co-ordinating and managing a range of property, housekeeping and catering services at Aras an Uachtarain continued to set high standards in 2005. Visits of Heads of State and other dignitaries, public tours of the House and other events held at the Aras resulted in 16,550 visitors in total being catered for in 2005.



General Facilities Management Services.

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

In 2005 a contract was successfully negotiated for the provision of a full Facilities Management service for the new Government Offices in Roscommon.

Property Maintenance Services

Summary Report of Expenditure by OPW Property Maintenance Services in 2005

Maintenance	34,244,000
Capital Expenditure	27,216,000
General Maintenance Client Accounts	14,205,000
Agency work done by OPW for Departments	5,814,000
Total	€81,479,000

The OPW Property Maintenance business unit handles refurbishment, fitting-out projects, and routine maintenance work on Government buildings across the country. Our services are provided via the network of OPW Regional Offices and District Offices located throughout the country. Our aim is to maintain the value and condition of the OPW's property portfolio using efficient and cost effective methods, through strong working relationships with our Client Departments and their Accommodation Officers. In the greater Dublin area, routine maintenance is carried out by OPW's own staff from the Building Maintenance Service based at Collins Barracks. Other services or non-routine maintenance and services outside of Dublin are contracted from the private sector.

Services offered to our Clients include:

- Fitting-out and refurbishment projects
- Minor capital works
- Regular surveys to identify preventative maintenance programmes
- Advice to accommodation officers
- Feasibility studies
- Assistance to other OPW Business Units
- Maintenance works, either with OPW's direct labour force or by contracting from the private sector
- Restoration following asbestos removal
- Provision of specialist conservation service i.e. in plasterwork or stone-cleaning
- A maintenance service for the War Graves Commission

Garda Minor Works Programme

Expenditure on the above programme was €5.2m in 2005 and included refurbishment works at some 41 garda stations, including Athy, Burnfoot, Crookstown, Dowra, Ennistymon, Harcourt Square, Mary Street (Limerick), Roscrea, and the Traffic Unit, Dublin Castle.

Building Maintenance Services

A programme of fitting "Fall Arrest" systems to the roofs of heritage properties in the Dublin area has begun.

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

Creche Programme

This is being financed under the Childcare Initiative run by the Department of Finance. Creches have been completed at Athlone, Ennis and Sligo. Further crèches are planned for 2006 in Cork, Galway and Limerick.

Furniture Division

The drawdown contract for office furniture is now in place and will cater for the furniture needs of decentralisation. A performance specification manual is now complete as is the brochure for all drawdown items supplied by Furniture Division. The documentation of procedures for ISO 9001:2000 certification is underway with a view to achieving accreditation by the end of 2006.

Health and Safety

The new Health and Safety Unit within Property Maintenance will develop the strategy and protocols in the area of safe work practice and procedures required to satisfy the requirements of the new Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.



Roscrea Garda Station



Leinster House Pavilion

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.

Decentralisation Programme

In Progress	Planning Permission/ Tender Stage etc	In Planning
Irish Prison Service, Longford -Shell & Core		Irish Prison Service, Longford -Fit-out
Sligo - Extension to Pension Services Office (Department of Social & Family Affairs)		Defence Forces, Curragh
		Department of Social & Family Affairs, Buncrana, CoDonegal.
		Department of C.R. & G.A. Furbo, Galway
		Private Security Authority, Tipperary

Office Rationalisation Programme

Expenditure in 2005 was €10m approximately.

Completed	In Progress	Planning Permission/ Tender Stage etc	In Planning
Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Blocks 8 –10, Dublin Castle- refurbishment works	Probation & Welfare Service – St. Nicholas Church, Cork – Refurbishment	Dept. of Transport – Driving Test Centre, Finglas, Dublin	Land Registry – Church Street/ Hammond Lane
Dept. of Transport – Driving Test Centre, Sarsfield Road, Cork	Department of Defence, Colaiste Caoimhin (Dublin) - Health & Safety works	Land Registry Santry – Warehouse Facility	Dept. of Agriculture & Food – New District Veterinary Office, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim
Roscommon Government Offices	Civil Defence New Offices – Roscrea, Co. Tipperary	Department of Environment & Local Government-new entrance way & other works	New OPW Workshop, Ballina, Co. Mayo
Revenue Commissioners, Fit-out of Ashtowngate, Dublin			Department of Foreign Affairs, Iveagh House – refurbishment works, Phase D
Dept. of Justice – Fit-out for Irish Born Child			Navan New Government Offices
Department of Agriculture – Fit-out of Houston Hall			Revenue Commissioners – Fit-out at Fairgreen, Galway
C.S.S.O. Fit-out - Hanover Street, Dublin		C.S.S.O., Thurles	
			Castlebar - New Government Offices
			Block N – Garda Depot

Garda Building Programme

Major Projects completed in 2005

Facility Building at Templemore Garda College, Co. Tipperary.

International Liaison Unit, Garda Headquarters

Major Projects nearing completion in 2006

Extention to Dining Hall/Gym, Templemore Garda College, Co. Tipperary

Refurb. of former Garda Station & refitting of existing buildings at Templemore Garda College, Co. Tipperary

Other Projects completed in 2005.

Bantry Garda District H.Q, Co. Cork
Ballyshannon Garda District H.Q (and Courthouse on same site)
New Ross Garda District H.Q, Co. Wexford
Ballina Garda District H.Q, Co. Mayo

Projects brought on site in 2005

Castlerea Garda District H.Q, Co. Roscommon- Extension/Refurbishment
Schull Garda Area H.Q, Co. Cork - new build on existing site
Urlingford Garda Station, Co. Kilkenny
Ballingarry Garda Station, Co. Limerick
Carbury/Derrinturn Garda Station, Co. Kildare
Donard Garda Station, Co. Wicklow

Projects coming on stream in 2006

Ballymun Garda Divisional H.Q, Dublin
Irishtown Garda Station, Dublin
Kill O'the Grange Garda Station, Dublin
Leixlip Garda Station, Co. Kildare
Oranmore Garda Station, Co. Galway (contract placed)
Finglas Garda Station, Dublin
Bangor-Erris Garda Area H.Q, Co. Mayo
Castleisland Garda Station, Co. Kerry
Dromad Garda Station, Co. Louth
Ballymote Garda District H.Q, Co. Sligo
Claremorris Garda District H.Q, Co. Mayo
Portlaoise Garda Divisional H.Q, Co. Laois - extension /refurb.
Elphin Garda Station, Co. Roscommon
Easkey Garda Station, Co.Sligo
Rearcross Garda Station, Co. Tipperary
Ballyvary Garda Station, Co. Mayo

Leinster House / Oireachtas Programme

Phase II of the redevelopment of Kildare House, Kildare Street was completed in 2005, including the provision of a fitness room. The entire project will be fully completed in early 2006 when a new crèche facility is commissioned.

The Kildare Street Entrance Pavilion was completed in 2005.

Two floors of emergency accommodation were also fitted out for the Oireachtas in Agriculture House in 2005.

Planning proceeded for a number of projects in Leinster House in 2005, which will commence in 2006 i.e. the new Siopa and outdoor interview facility, the new pavilion at Merrion Street, the expansion of IT in the Dail Chamber, the proposed link with the National Museum and improved accessibility to the Dail Chamber.

Department of Social and Family Affairs Programme

Expenditure in 2005 was €1.45million.

In Progress	Planning Permission/ Tender Stage etc	In Planning
Cobh - new Local Office - Refurbishment and extension		Ballina (Co Mayo) -new local office
Hynes Building, Galway - fit-out of ground and 1st floors		Ballymun - Construction of new Local Office
	Bray - Construction of new Local Office	Buncrana Co Donegal (Being done in conjunction with Decentralisation project.)

Large Building Projects

The Restoration and Development of Nenagh Courthouse, Co. Tipperary progressed in 2005 and is scheduled for completion March 2006. The development is valued at €14m.

The Restoration and Development of Tullamore Courthouse, Co. Offaly commenced in April 2005 and will be completed mid 2006. The development is valued at €13.5m.

The Restoration and Development of Longford Courthouse progressed in 2005 and will be completed in Spring 2006. The development is valued at €9m.

Planning permission for the development of a Garda Divisional Headquarters and Office Accommodation for the Department of Social & Family Affairs, the Money Advice & Budgeting Service and the Probation and Welfare Service in Ballymun was obtained in 2005. Construction will commence mid 2006 and the order of cost is €20m.

Planning commenced in 2005 for a new Forensic Science Laboratory at Garda HQ.

Coast Guard Stations

The construction of a new Coast Guard Station in Bunbeg, Co. Donegal commenced in 2005. The project is due for completion in 2006.

Planning for new coastguard stations at Toe Head, Co. Cork and Doolin, Co. Clare advanced.

Dublin Zoo

The extension of the entrance facilities and environs was completed in 2005. This project marked the completion of the Capital Development Programme for 2001 to 2005 at a value of €12.7m.

A new 5-year programme of Capital Development Work will commence in 2006. The first project in this programme, for which planning permission was obtained in 2005, is a new elephant exhibit.

Courts Services Programme.

In 2005 expenditure was €18.98 million on this programme.

Completed	In Progress	Planning Permission/ Tender Stage etc	In Planning
Four Courts - Security Works Phase 1.	Longford - Refurbishment	Criminal Court Complex - Public Private Partnership	
Ballyshannon - new build.	Nenagh - Refurbishment & new extension		Cork District Court - extension
	Bray - Construction of new Courthouse		Youghal - refurbishment
	Tullamore - refurbishment		Kilkenny - refurbishment
			Wexford - new build
			Drogheda - new build
			Letterkenny - new build
			Monaghan - refurbishment
			Mullingar- refurbishment

Irish Prison Service Programme

Completed	In Progress	Planning Permission/ Tender Stage etc	In Planning
Irish Prison Service - Portlaoise Prison Gate lock	Irish Prison Service - Portlaoise Prison C Block		Irish Prison Service Construction of bridge to Spike Island
Irish Prison Service - Limerick Prison C Wing			

Others

In addition the Office undertook work on a repayment basis for other State Agencies. Among the completed projects were the fit-out of offices in Dublin for the Ombudsman for Children at Millennium House, 52 -56 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1

Projects on site include the refurbishment of offices in the Setanta Centre for the Revenue Commissioners and new development for the Environmental Protection Agency in Kilkenny.

Projects in planning include the, refurbishment of offices for the Adoption Authority at Shelbourne House, Shelbourne Road, Dublin and refurbishment of offices for the Environmental Protection Agency in Wexford.

Construction will commence on a new Regional Headquarters for Waterways Ireland at Scarrif, Co. Clare to be finished in 2006.

Cultural Institutions / Heritage Properties

Completed	In Progress	In Planning
Riding School Refurbishment, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks,	Military History Exhibition, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks	Birr Telescope Recommissioning
Shackleton Exhibition, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks	No. 5 South Leinster Street Refurbishment, National Gallery of Ireland	Peach House Restoration, Áras an Uachtaráin
Refurbishment of 44-45 Merrion Square for the Irish Architectural Archives & Irish Manuscript Commission	Basement Storage, National Gallery of Ireland	Communications Initiative, Áras an Uachtaráin
JFK Arboretum, New Ross - Staff Facilities	Fire Suppression Works - Marsh's Library	Historic Buildings Refurbishment (Phases 1 to 4, 6 & 10), National Gallery of Ireland
Carrowmore Visitor Centre, Co. Sligo		Muckcross House, Killarney - Disabled Access
Garnish Island, Co. Cork - Upgrade of Staff Facilities		Clara Bog - New Visitor Centre, Co. Offaly
		Ballycroy, Co. Mayo - New Visitor Centre
		St. Enda's Museum - Refurbishment
		Flahive's Lodge, Glengariff - Refurbishment
		Dinis Cottage, Killarney - Refurbishment
		Provision of Office Accommodation for NPWS - Corofin
		Provision of Office Accommodation for NPWS at Lagduff
		Phoenix Park, Walled Garden - Restoration
		Botanic Gardens - Restoration of Cactus, Lily & Fern House
		Emo Court - provision of Tearoom
		Rathfarnham Castle - Universal Access Programme
		Re-Development of Abbey Theatre at George's Dock
		Fire, Security & Gallery Lighting project in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham
		New Heritage Council Headquarters, Kilkenny
		National Concert Hall - External Lighting Project
		Lisdoonvarna Theatre/Arts Pavilion

Special Projects Unit

The official opening of the new 12,500m² **State Laboratory** was held on 23rd May 2005. Practical Completion of the 25,000m² Laboratories complex for the **Department of Agriculture & Food** was achieved in May 2005. Total expenditure involved on the Backweston complex is in the region of €200m.

Construction work on the provision of the new €50m/11,000m² (approx.) **Marine Institute HQ** at Oranmore, Co. Galway was due for completion at the end of 2005 but a contract extension requested by the Contractor was granted until February 2006. The Planning process for the new **Central Veterinary Research Farm** at Longtown Farm, Clane, Co. Kildare which will replace the existing facility at Abbotstown, Dublin 15 for the Department of Agriculture & Food continued during the year and Planning Approval for the Main Contract - comprising Administration Buildings, Yards and Sheds and associated facilities covering a total floor area of just in excess of 14,000m² - was received from Kildare County Council in October 2005.

National Conference Centre. This complex Public Private Partnership (PPP) project was advanced substantially during the year. After receipt of three Tenders/Bids on 20th May 2005 and, after an extensive assessment process Government agreed to the Spencer Dock consortium's proposed appointment as the Provisional Preferred Tenderer (PPT) for the Provision of the NCCD. Negotiations with that consortium then commenced with a view to selecting it as the Preferred Tenderer and Awarding it the Project Agreement (subject to the approval of Government) commenced in December 2005 through a series of Legal/Commercial, Financial and Technical meetings. The Procurement method is Design Build Finance Operate Maintain; the State will pay for the Facility over 27 1/2 years by means of Unitary Payments; no estimated cost is available given the nature of procurement of the Centre.

Under the OPW's "**Transforming State Assets Programme**" Planning Permission was granted in December 2004 for the proposed 52,000m² mixed-use **Heuston Gate** development at John's Road/Military Road East featuring a 32-storey landmark tower building and the Exploration Station (formerly called the Children's Museum) in addition to residential and retail units, offices, a Museum Building, a Health Club other Cultural Facilities, Restaurants, a Public House and a Childcare Facility. The Permission was appealed by third parties to An Bord Pleanála. OPW's response to the Appeals was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in February 2005. Planning Permission for a mixed-use development of c.52,000m² was received, in June 2005, with 32 Conditions attaching. A decision on how to proceed viz. a viz. the Planning Permission received, in light of the relocation (or otherwise) of the Revenue Computer Centre, HSE car park etc., has yet to be taken.

The proposed **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 and the Military Billets on the South Road of Government Buildings, advanced noticeably during 2005. Tenders for both the Enabling i.e., demolition/drainage Works and the Main Contract were sought in 2005 and a contract for the Enabling Works was placed in May 2005. These Works are expected to be completed in late February/early March 2006 with the Main Contract being placed soon afterwards to be completed in late 2007. This will be a complex project to manage given the logistical restrictions imposed by its location on busy Merrion Row, its adjacency to the Huguenot Cemetery and the security aspects of the proposed connection to Government Buildings via a tunnel under the South Road. However, the proposed landmark 6-storey over basement structure to be erected at a Total Project Budget of €24m should prove a valuable addition to the State infrastructure.

Planning Approval for the proposed 6,050m² (approx.) **Food Safety Centre** for some 250 staff of the Department of Agriculture & Food at the existing complex at **Backweston** was received

in October 2005 and tenders for the Main, and Mechanical, Electrical and Lift Contracts were invited for the contract in December 2005.

In late 2005 Special Projects Unit was asked to oversee the redevelopment of the Assay Office which is located in Dublin Castle. [The Assay Office houses the Company of Goldsmiths - the last of the City Guilds; they were established by Royal Charter under Charles 1 on 22nd December 1637 and have been in continuous business since then and in Dublin Castle since 1925]. The Assay Office accommodation is now in a dilapidated condition, in addition to no longer complying with current Health and Safety standards for the destructive testing processes which they use in their work. Planning Permission was received, in 2003, by the Assay Office, for a renovation project involving the demolition of part of the existing single storey buildings, the conservation and refurbishment of the retained listed building to best conservation standards, the construction of a new basement under the retained building and the construction of a two storey over basement extension. A Department of Finance Sanction was secured, by OPW, in 2004, for the management of the Assay Office renovation project from OPW's Vote, subject to agreement between OPW and the Assay Office on a significant increase in the rent payable by the AO, to OPW, for its accommodation. SPU appointed Project Managers during 2005 and together with the Design Team they have continued with the preparation of tender documentation during 2005. Expressions of Interest from Contractors were received on December 21st, 2005 and the project will be progressed to tender stage in early 2006. A construction period of 15-18 months is envisaged for the contract.

On foot of the planned relocation of the Mountjoy Prison facility to North County Dublin (**Thornton Hall**), the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform asked OPW, in late 2005, to undertake a process, for the 7.9ha Mountjoy Prison Site, in order to determine its redevelopment potential and optimum market value. To progress matters, a Project Team (PT) was set up in Special Projects Unit and it was agreed that the services of a Multi-disciplinary Team would be required, in order to produce, inter alia, a Masterplan for the redevelopment of the Site, which Masterplan would be submitted with a Planning Application to Dublin City Council (DCC). The Scope of Works for the Project includes the submission of a Planning Application, to DCC, seeking full Planning Permission (probably for 10 years) for the redevelopment of the 7.9ha prison site, the Application to be accompanied by a Site Masterplan and Environmental Impact Assessment. The Application will be required to pay due deference to the historic properties within the Site, acknowledge the context of the Site within the north city area, its surrounding community and the city generally.

Alterations to the **East Gate of the RHK** at Military Road are required as a consequence of:

- road widening works on Military Rd (arising from the WestGate/HeustonGate Projects).
- Health & Safety concerns of IMMA regarding visitors entering the Museum.
- An Accessibility Audit of the RHK buildings and grounds by an OPW Accessibility Auditor which highlighted, inter alia, the dangerous nature of the existing entrance.

Planning Permission for the Alterations was sought on June 3rd 2005; a Request for Further Information was received, from Dublin City Council, on 2 September 2005 and responded to on 4 November 2005. DCC's final decision is expected in January 2006.

The Unit continued to act as **Technical Advisers to the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism (DAST)** on the proposed development of a National Stadium. Government decided in January 2004 to financially support - to the tune of €191m - **the redevelopment of Lansdowne Road** into a 50,000 all-seater Stadium under the joint sponsorship of the IRFU and FAI. In early 2004 the two sports Bodies established a joint venture Company, Lansdowne Road Stadium

Development Ltd., (LRSDC) to procure the redevelopment and LRSDC appointed Project Management/Design Teams etc., for the Project in 2005. This Unit has liaised closely with LRSDC and DAST on all matters relating to the procurement of Design and Project Management services in that connection e.g., documentation, attendance at interviews and evaluation of Consultants' submissions. Planning Application documentation was virtually completed by LRSDC by end 2005. Special Projects Unit continued to advise DAST throughout the year regarding the various procurement options being considered.

As part of its Decision to support the redevelopment of Landsdowne Road, the Government also committed itself, as financial resources permit, to the development of a **Sports Campus at Abbotstown**. The Campus is to include medical, research and training support for élite 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 is to be procured by Campus and Stadium Ireland Development Ltd., (CSID) whose Development Control Plan (DCP) for the entire site was approved by Government in November 2005. This DCP proposes that the sports facilities be developed in 2 Phases; Phase 1 to include dedicated facilities for training and competition for targeted high performance sports, facilities for staging major events, a world-class sports science and medicine facility and a quality location for Ireland's sporting organisations and agencies with Phase 2 to include NGB accommodation/office facilities within some of the refurbished existing buildings etc. The Total Budget for Phase 1 is some €120m. CSID envisage that the Facility will be financed by a combination of Government Grants, Capital Contributions from NGB's, Fingal County Council and the Sale/Lease of surplus land. SPU contributed to various aspects of the DCP. SPU's role in relation to the Project is to act as Technical Advisors to DAST/CSID.

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. The service provided, which includes offering advice on works carried out on many GAA and FAI grounds (including Eircom League grounds), Swimming Pools etc., is, essentially, the examination of documentation to ensure that the works being Grant-aided meet all Statutory requirements under the Planning Acts, Building Control Act (Fire Safety) and Safety, Health & Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations etc. This examination is, generally, followed by an assessment of the Tender Report from the Grantee's Architect and if SPU is satisfied that all necessary requirements have been complied with, a recommendation, to DAST, to enable the Grantee place the contract with the successful Tenderer. SPU subsequently examines and certifies, to DAST, all claims for payment of instalments of the Grant. SPU does not inspect the building works from a quality, Health & Safety or any such perspective, as these are the responsibility of the Grantee (Sports Club), its Design Team and Contractor.

Decentralisation Programme

Project Management Services made considerable progress in implementing the Government's Decentralisation Programme during 2005. In excess of 40 Department/Agency projects are either at Project Development stage or have reached Tender stage, including all 8 proposed Headquarter buildings. A further two projects are in progress, ie. on site.

Total Expenditure by Special Projects Unit in 2005 was €39.4M.

Completed	In Progress	Planning Permission/ Tender Stage	PPP
Relocation of the Department of Agriculture & Food Laboratories (Agrilabs) from Abbotstown to Backweston	Relocation of the Marine Institute HQ to Galway.	Provision of Accommodation for the Department of Finance at 7-9 Merrion Row (Main Contract)	National Conference Centre
	Provision of Accommodation for the Department of Finance at 7-9 Merrion Row (Enabling Works)	Proposed HeustonGate Development at John's Road/Military Rd. sites. Department of Agriculture & Food Farm Facility at Longtown, Clane, Co. Kildare	
		Assay Office Mountjoy Prison redevelopment	
		Provision of office accommodation for the Department of Agriculture & Food at Backweston.	

EXPO 2005

Expo 2005, celebrating 'Nature's Wisdom', took place at Aichi, Japan from March to September 2005.

Ireland's participation was led by the Department of the Taoiseach. OPW was asked by the Department of the Taoiseach to manage the construction and fit-out aspects of the project.

The centrepiece of the Ireland Pavilion was a selection of six replicas of High Crosses on loan from the National Museum. The original crosses date from the 6th - 12th century. The replicas were made in the late 19th / early 20th century and had to be rebuilt and repaired for display in Japan. The rich imagery on the crosses provided the inspiration for a multimedia exhibition in the Pavilion that presented a 5,000 year continuum of Irish creativity.

The Crosses were repaired and restored at the National Museum in Collins Barracks. They were shipped to Japan in 27 crates and reassembled in the Pavilion by OPW and National Museum staff. OPW BMS staff repaired and rebuilt the Crosses in such a way that they could be returned to the National Museum in Ireland when the Expo closed.

In addition to the Crosses, the Pavilion presented replicas of other Irish treasures such as the Cross of Cong and the Book of Kells which were contrasted with contemporary Irish painting, sculpture, architecture, craft, fashion, literature, theatre, film and music. An audio-visual space presented a range of important Irish environmental initiatives.

All aspects of the construction of the Pavilion were co-ordinated and directed by the OPW. The exhibition was designed and prepared by Martello Media, Sandycove, Co. Dublin and constructed by Asatsu-DK Inc, Japan.

The Department of the Taoiseach set a budget of 4m for EXPO 2005. This included the design, construction and maintenance of the exhibition, staff costs in the Irish Pavilion up to the end of September 2005 and funding of the cultural programme throughout the Expo operational period.



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.

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
- Public Offices and Government Departments
- Public access at heritage sites
- Exhibition Design

Project Portfolio

Normally the extent of work undertaken by Architectural Services is indicated by the value of the portfolio of projects. However for 2005 Architectural Services was engaged in substantial additional work for the decentralisation programme. This included the design development of the new OPW Headquarters at Trim, Co. Meath following an in-house design competition. Where the work of the decentralisation programme advanced from investigative and analytical to project status its value has been included in the work programme. For 2005 the work programme contained 374 projects with a combined value of €1.552 billion.

Throughout the year variations occurred in the planned advancement of certain projects owing to the changing priorities of the client. Although some 84 projects were added to the programme a number of major projects were also removed resulting in an end of year output value of €1.635 billion for 409 projects on hand.

Following a request to the Office of Public Works to provide additional facilities to meet the Government decision to recruit 2000 extra Gardai, Architectural Services responded with an accelerated design and construction programme. These buildings were substantially completed in 2005 in record time from initiation of the €20m project to the facility becoming fully operational.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

An analysis of CPD staff records was carried out as part of the comprehensive ISO Audit of Architectural Services in December 2005. It was noted that individual staff member's average annual CPD training for 2005 stood at 34 hours. This exceeded the 2004 figure of 28 hours and the base CPD annual target of 25 hours.

Training days per staff member rose from three and a half days in 2004 to four and a half days in 2005.

The CPD Programme continued in 2005 with training and other events including:

- Participation by selected Architectural staff at Planning & Design for Heritage Development Seminar in association with the DoE.
- Series of lectures and RIAI approved refresher courses for selected staff, on Health and Safety and Planning Legislation.
- Safepass accreditation for an additional 45 staff members including the Graduate Architects.
- Seminars and day courses for individual staff members on Fire Safety in Historic buildings, Conservation Engineering, Historic Roofs and Conservation Repair Renders in association with the Dublin Civic Trust and the Irish Georgian Society.
- Participation by selected Architectural staff at Historic Gardens Conference in Dublin Castle
- Participation by selected staff at Historic Houses of Ireland Annual Conference.
- Legal briefing on the Health and Safety at Work Act 2005.
- A further 12 permanent staff members were trained as Access Auditors under the University of Ulster programme.
- Senior Architectural management staff attended conferences relating to, European Environmental Policy, Public Affairs Conference on Decentralisation, Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- Training in BREEAM Assessment for offices, was received by selected Architectural Staff at the Building Research Establishment in Watford, England.
- Companies who had appropriate RIAI or RIBA accreditation gave a variety of Technical and Trade Powerpoint presentations to Architectural staff throughout 2005.

Graduate Training Programme

- A new joint RIAI/OPW Graduate Training Programme was established in 2004. There are currently 17 graduates in OPW with capacity for a full complement of 20 graduates.
- The training programme aims to provide the experience required for the RIAI/ NUI examination in professional practice and during their time with Architectural Services, the graduates have made a positive contribution to the design and development of various projects.

Conservation

The Conservation Unit, in addition to executing major building conservation projects, continued with a number of conservation research initiatives, including:

- Developing a building limestone database with the Geological Survey of Ireland and the State Laboratory
- Conservation research into historic paints under joint agreement with the State Laboratory.
- Developing a research programme and establishing collaborators to share in undertaking of specific practice related subjects: fire safety (historic buildings); preservation of historic ironwork; ventilation within historic buildings and sustainable timber repair methodologies for historic joinery.
- The recording and documentation of interventions in Historic Properties and other Protected Structures with the School of Architecture, U.C.D.

Sustainable Development and Universal Access policy

- The OPW SD+UA Workgroup (Workgroup on Sustainable Design and Universal Access) continued to research best practice, methods and standards for Architectural Services and advised on the CPD Programme.
- The Green Design Audit Checklist, a self-auditing tool, is available on the intranet to assist the design process at various stages
- The Accessibility Audit Checklist is available on the OPW intranet site to assist designers audit design to comply with the current statutory building regulations
- During 2005 two architects (together with two M+E Engineers) attended a course on BREEAM Environmental Auditing at the BRE.
- The OPW currently have twenty five qualified access auditors to assist in auditing of buildings within the State property portfolio following a request from a Government Department.
- During 2005 the SD+UA Workgroup provided assistance and advice in the development of the generic output specification to be used in the Government Decentralisation Programme and other PPP projects



With staff drawn from a range of engineering disciplines, this business unit delivers engineering services and advice in the civil, mechanical & electrical and hydrometric fields in connection with its own work programme and that of other Office of Public Works business units.

Flood Policy Programme

The Office of Public Works was designated Lead Agency for flood matters by the Government in 2004 and is undertaking a multi-faceted programme aimed at mitigating flood risk and impact nationwide. Engineering Services will implement the programme over a number of years, in conjunction with other stakeholders, primarily state agencies, where relevant. By the end of 2005 progress on implementation of the programme was as follows:

Flood Studies Report Update Programme

This Programme is well underway, with a number of data preparation and research and development contracts commissioned, and, in some instances, completed. Further research and information system development contracts will be issued in 2006 and 2007.

Strategic Review of the Hydrometric Monitoring Programme

The initial research and review project (that will lead to the production of the strategic monitoring plan) has been scoped, and a discussion document prepared for review by the Steering Group of stakeholders that will oversee this Programme.

Research and Development Programme

An outline administrative framework has been developed for the Research and Development Programme, with implementation foreseen to commence in 2006.

Flood Hazard Mapping Programme

Phase I of the Flood Hazard Mapping Programme is nearing completion, with the website (populated with quality-controlled historic and indicative flood hazard data) programmed for launch in Summer 2006.

Phase II of this Programme will be integrated into the River Basin Flood Risk Management and Planning Programme (see below).

River Basin Flood Risk Management Planning Programme

Pilot studies for Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (the implementation mechanism for the Programme) have been specified and put out to tender for the Lee and Dodder Catchments. Preparations are underway for a similar study to be undertaken in-house for the Suir Catchment. Localised studies are also underway for Tullamore and Portarlinton in response to significant development pressures. These studies are being run in line with current international best practice and emerging EU proposals in relation to the assessment and management of flood risk.

Preparation is underway for the commissioning of an aerial survey of substantial areas of floodplain throughout the country which is required as a foundation of this Programme. It is proposed that this survey contract will be undertaken in partnership with other stakeholders.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Programme

Flood forecasting systems are under development and testing for Mallow, Fermoy and Clonmel 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 are in the process of initiating a project to prepare guidelines on the preparation of flood event emergency response plans, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders.

Public Awareness and Preparedness Programme

The general awareness and preparedness brochure and website (www.flooding.ie) were launched in December 2005, and are being supported by an ongoing publicity campaign.

Planning and Development Management Programme

Tri-lateral discussions were initiated between the OPW, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources on the consideration of flood risk in planning and development management.

High-Risk Channel Designation Programme

Consideration commenced on possible mechanisms for the designation process of high-risk channels, and possible legislative issues associated with such a process.

Prioritisation of Expenditure

Draft systems to enable prioritisation between programmes and schemes were established and are currently undergoing testing, review and refinement.

Asset Database and Management Programme

The development of a defence asset database has been included as an item within the specification prepared for one of the pilot Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies, for use on that study and also nationally.

OPW Flood Response Development Programme

A draft OPW flood response procedure has been developed and is under review.

Quality Service

- Engineering Services achieved accreditation to the Institution of Engineers of Ireland Continuing Professional Development training scheme for professional and technical staff.
- All Engineering Services sections already accredited to the ISO 9001 standard retained that status following external audits conducted in 2005.

- Drainage Maintenance Section completed preparations for seeking accreditation to the ISO 18001 (Health & Safety) standard.
- The customer satisfaction-monitoring programme in Drainage Maintenance Division again yielded a high satisfaction rating from clients.

The other main activities and outputs in Engineering Services during the year were as follows:-

	East Region		West Region		S-W Region		Total	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Main channels (km)	59	94	221	178	123	98	403	370
Minor channels (km)	869	894	536	537	523	507	1928	1938
Structures repaired or replaced	58	107	66	66	109	113	233	286
Bridge development applications	31	147	142	35	78	95	351	277
Labourforce (at 31 December)	120	121	98	95	72	71	291	287
Maintenance expenditure (€m)	5.9	5.9	4.9	5.2	4.6	4.6	15.4	15.7

Drainage Maintenance

An unusual aspect of the maintenance programme in 2005 involved works to Galway Canal. One of the objectives of the Natural Environment & Waterways Group of the Galway City Development Board, of which OPW is a member, is the revitalisation of the waterways of Galway City. A pilot scheme was carried out during the year on a 420m. long stretch of the Eastern Conduit canal, involving OPW, Galway City Council and the Western Regional Fisheries Board. The project consisted of the removal of silt and litter, staunching of leaks and repointing and refurbishment of stonework. The duration of the works was roughly 12 weeks, at a cost of approximately €90,000.

Environmental Unit

During 2005 the Environmental Unit:

- Coordinated OPW's submission in relation to the status of the National Biodiversity Plan.
- Drafted a strategy document setting out a multi-annual programme of studies in relation to OPW Drainage Maintenance operations affecting EU designated protection sites.
- Expanded an existing research programme to include additional protected species.
- Commissioned an Ecological Impact Assessment on Raised Bogs.
- Compiled a Standard Operating Procedure for Zebra Mussels for use by OPW operational staff and environmental stakeholders.

- Compiled a detailed identification system for OPW drainage channels in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

Mechanical Engineering

As part of an ongoing plant management programme, new equipment and vehicles costing €0.9m were purchased.

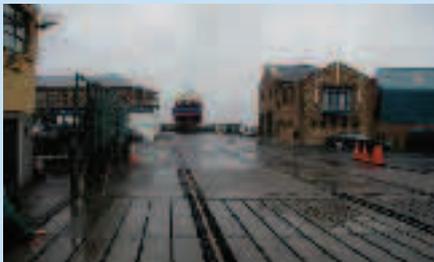
In addition to output supporting Engineering Services drainage operations e.g. fabricating sluice gates, weed-boats etc the Central Engineering Workshops carried out a number of projects for other OPW business units and outside bodies including:-

Phoenix Park: Cabra gates dismantled, refurbished and refitted; railings around Peoples Garden lake manufactured and installed; work commenced on the fabrication of approximately 2 Km of perimeter railings around Áras an Uachtaráin



Four Courts: Work ongoing on the refurbishment of antique gates and railings at the front of the complex.

Howth Harbour: New rail tracks installed on the syncrolift platform.



Castletownbere Harbour: Syncrolift shotblasted and repainted.



A statutory inspection service continued to be provided in respect of mechanical plant.

Hydrology and Hydrometric

Hydrometric data collection

At the end of 2005, data was being collected at a total of 354 hydrometric gauging stations throughout the country (293 permanent and 61 project-related stations).

Requests for hydrological data

The Section responded to a total of 368 requests for data or information in 2005, a 44% increase on 2004 and 97% were processed within 7 days of receipt. Data is also being provided via a dedicated Internet site (www.opw.ie/hydro/home.asp).

Information was also provided to other agencies in connection with water body assessments related to the Water Framework Directive and the North South Share Monitoring Programme.

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.

Structural Engineering

This Unit continued to provide an advisory, design and monitoring service. In 2005 a considerable amount of the Unit's resources were involved with the assessment of sites for Decentralisation Offices. Prestige projects completed included new Garda Station District Headquarters in Ballina and Schengen Project in Garda HQ, Phoenix Park.

The throughput of cases in the year can be summarized as follows:

Project/Activity	No. on hand 1/1/2005	New Projects In 2005	Total in 2005	Number Completed
Building	13	10	23	3
Civil Structural	8	5	13	0
Reports	120	124	244	87



Ballina District Garda Headquarters

Mechanical and Electrical

The section had a direct role in the design of a number of significant new projects, most notably Templemore Training College and Wexford Opera Theatre.

All technical services for the Decentralisation Programme have been delivered successfully under the various procurement processes.

An Internet based energy monitoring system has been commissioned and installed in many state occupied buildings in the first phase of a conservation programme.

Changes in the maintenance service continues with a new Help Desk and Technical Support Contract tendered, new framework contracts tendered for design services and the first tender process for framework type works contracts.

Output in 2005 is summarised in the table below.

Work Area	Total Value (€m)
New Works	25
Minor Maintenance Works	15
Programmed Maintenance Work	2.5
Advice and Monitoring (including Decentralisation Programme)	200

Flood Relief Programme

The OPW programme of Flood Relief Schemes, which is managed by Engineering Services, 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 Act 1945, and the Arterial Drainage Amendment Act 1995, although in recent years some phases of schemes have been carried out by the local authorities under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

OPW expenditure on the Programme amounted to €16.2m in 2005. Construction works continued on three main areas in 2005. The scheme completed in Kilkenny was undertaken under the Arterial Drainage Acts, while the River Tolka works in Dublin and Meath are being undertaken under local authority powers. Works have also been carried out on an advance phase of the Mallow Flood Relief Scheme which is being undertaken by Cork County Council and funded by OPW. These three flood relief schemes accounted for 70% of the Flood Relief budget in 2005 with €5.1m expended in Kilkenny, €1.6m in Mallow and €4.2m on the River Tolka.

Other major schemes advanced in 2005 included Clonmel on the River Suir, Fermoy on the Munster Blackwater, and Ennis on the River Fergus. Minor schemes which were progressed in 2004 include Mornington, Co Meath and Tullow, Co Carlow.

Significant work has been done in developing early flood warning systems for the Suir and Munster Blackwater Catchments. These systems are particularly important for Clonmel and Fermoy as there will be extensive use of demountable flood defences in the schemes proposed for these towns.

Kilkenny Scheme

This scheme was substantially completed in 2004 but certain remedial works were carried out during 2005.

River Tolka

Works continued on the River Tolka in Counties Meath and Dublin throughout 2005. A feature of this project, which was undertaken by OPW personnel, was the laying of three new 1.8m diameter pipes across the N3 dual carriageway at Clonee, County Meath. These works involved closing sections of the carriageway during construction. This required a comprehensive traffic management plan, involving paving two areas of the central median in order to minimise traffic disruption.



Works to N3 dual carriageway at Clonee involving laying of pipes under roadway

Activity on the Flood Relief Programme in 2005 is summarised below.

Scheme	Status	€
River Nore Kilkenny City	Complete with snag list ongoing	5,127,315
River Suir Clonmel	Construction of Clonmel West Scheme beginning mid 2006	421,814
Mallow Flood Relief Scheme, Co Cork	Phase 1 almost complete. Detailed design of Mallow North Scheme ongoing	1,781,536
Strategic Information Dev Programme	Work programmes ongoing	627,658
Flood Hazard Mapping	Phase 1 nearing completion	2,241,339
Fermoy Flood Relief	Proposed Scheme Exhibited.	128,941
Fergus River, Ennis	Proposed Schemes exhibited.	337,459
Templemore	Feasibility Complete.	146,340
Mornington River	Exhibition mid 2006	169
Tolka River (Dublin City Area)	Most works complete	1,635,800
Tolka River, Fingal Area	First Phase of works complete	878,482
Tolka River (Meath area)	Majority of works complete	1,755,259
John's River Waterford City	Proposed Scheme Exhibited	1,321
Slaney, Tullow	Proposed Scheme Exhibited	37,547
Limerick (Harry's Mall)	Local authority carrying out works with OPW funding	300,000
Slaney, Enniscorthy	Feasibility Study ongoing	25,792
Drainage Surveys and Flood Relief Miscellaneous		251,050
River Suir Carrick-on-Suir	Scheme completed	150,675
Arklow	Feasibility Report being updated	150,000
Mulkear River Cappamore	Compensation claims being processed	105,128
Bandon River Dunmanway	Compensation claims being processed	63,847
TOTAL		16,167,472

Heritage Services

Historic Properties

Historic Properties is responsible for the conservation, management, presentation and development of over 20 Historic Properties comprising Houses, Historic Parks and Gardens. These include such flagship properties as the Phoenix Park, the National Botanic Gardens, Kilkenny Castle, Castletown House and the JFK Arboretum.

Development work encompasses restoration of historic buildings, provision of improved visitor facilities, upgrading and restoration of historic 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 2005.

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 2005 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

Substantial progress was made during 2005 in extending the network of cycle lanes works in the Phoenix Park, Chesterfield Avenue. A further phase of works to the cycle network is to be implemented in 2006. This project is part-funded by the Dublin Transportation Office.

Plans for the comprehensive renewal of Chesterfield Avenue, the main road in the Park, have been finalized following consultation with the Garda Síochána and others and will be submitted for planning permission in 2006

Great Blasket Island, Co. Kerry

As a result of the collapse of An Blascaod Mór National Historic Park Act, 1989, a consultative process about the Island's future was initiated to bring together all Island stakeholders and other relevant parties. The three main issues to emerge were those of access, conservation and an acceptable level of development. The Government Decision dated 6th July 2005 approved a total expenditure of €8.5 million for the purchase of land interests, the provision of piers, conservation works, operational costs and consultancy fees. A Monitoring Committee led by OPW has been set up comprising of representatives

of the Local Authority, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and OPW. It is proposed to establish a local Management Committee consisting of State agencies, landowners and the local community. The majority of landowners have already signed up to the Management Plan for the Island.

Following the Government decision of 6 July 2005 the proposed new landing facilities on both the Island and the mainland are to be provided by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in partnership with Kerry County Council. The landowners are deferring the sale of their holdings until such time as their individual applications for planning permission have been processed. Subject to this and to the resolution of legal issues, including title and access, it is hoped to complete the purchase of land and property on the Island in 2006 with funding to be provided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Emo Court, Co. Laois

Planning commenced in 2005 for the provision of Tearooms in the Dower House in Emo Court. The project is due to be completed in the summer of 2006.

The Country Fair was held in the grounds of Emo Court in 2004 and 2005. The site is hosting the event again in June 2006.

St Stephen's Green Park

A programme of events, including the performance of a specially commissioned musical composition was held during the summer of 2005 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the OPW's management of St Stephen's Green Park. A comprehensive programme of works to repair the internal footpaths in the Park will be completed before the end of 2006.

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

Financial Information		
	2004	2005
	€ ,000	€ ,000
Staffing	9,751	9,844
Non-Pay Running Costs	3,605	3,842
Maintenance	1,637	2,556
Total	14,993	16,242

National Monuments

Financial

Subhead I2 -

€16,822,083.63 was expended in 2005 from the I2 Subhead. (Of this, €10,249,095 was spent on PAY and the remaining €6,572,988 was spent on NON-PAY).

Works/Services for the Dept. of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government -

€1,734,625 was expended in 2005 by OPW National Monuments on works/services on behalf of the Dept. 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.

Activities

Kilfenora Cathedral, Co. Clare

Kilfenora Cathedral is justifiably known and much visited for its fine high crosses which all date from the 12th century. Perhaps the most famous of these is the Doorty Cross depicting three bishops with different types of croziers and a double headed bird and several mythical animals on the back.

The OPW, as the body charged with the conservation of the State's portfolio of national monuments, had concerns about the potential damage that could be caused to the stone carvings of the High Crosses by continued exposure to the outdoor elements. In 2000, the decision was taken that the crosses situated in the graveyard should be moved indoors to the cathedral to create proper environmental conditions for interpretation of the crosses and to improve the overall presentation of the entire site.

Work on the conservation of the site, including the installation of a glass roof in the north transept was completed in June 2005 and the site officially opened by Mr. Tom Parlon, T.D., Minister of State. The glass roof allows the crosses to be viewed in natural light and to be presented in as close a manner as possible to their original out-door settings.

This project was funded under the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

Listowel Castle, Co. Kerry

Work on the conservation of Listowel Castle, the earliest reference to which dates to 1549, was completed in the Summer of 2005 and the site is now open to the Public as part of the visitor services programme of the Office of Public Works.

Works undertaken as part of the conservation of the Castle include the provision of a new external staircase to provide access to the upper levels; re-pointing of the exterior of the Castle using replica historic mortar; re-flooring of chambers and passageways; and the repair of windows and doorways. In addition, given its town centre setting, extensive work was also required on the landscaping of the site, including the provision of replica railings to match other historic railings in the town square, and on the replacement of boundary walls.

The project was officially opened by Minister of State Tom Parlon, T.D., on 2 June, 2005.

This project was funded under the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

Carrigafoyle Castle, Co. Kerry

In August, 2005 Mr. Tom Parlon, T.D., Minister of State officially opened Carrigafoyle Castle, Co. Kerry following the completion of an extensive programme of conservation work. Given the location of the site on the Shannon Estuary the work involved was difficult both to plan and execute and as such required a high level of dedication from the National Monuments craftspeople involved.

Work undertaken included consolidation of exterior walls using replica shell based mortars; provision of a waterproof membrane on the upper floor; repair of guardroom and vaulting; installation of oak flooring; and the installation of safety grilles where required to ensure that the public could have access to the monument.

The project was funded under the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

Durrow Abbey, Co. Offaly

In late 2004 the Office of Public Works commissioned Howley Harrington Architects to prepare a Conservation Plan for Durrow Abbey, Co. Offaly which would inform the future management and conservation of the site.

Durrow Abbey, which was acquired by the State in December, 2003, is regarded as being of international significance being an undisturbed monastic site founded by St. Colmcille in the 6th century. Work on the Conservation Plan was completed in the third quarter of 2005 and was launched by Minister of State Tom Parlon at a reception on the site in October, 2005.

The Conservation Plan sets out the reasons why Durrow Abbey is significant, what issues place the site under threat and recommends policies which will help protect the integrity and importance of the site.

One recommendation made in the Plan related to how best the issue of public access to the site could be addressed. Taking on board the detail of the recommendation the Office of Public Works in the final quarter of 2005 lodged a planning application with Offaly County Council for the development of visitor facilities and car parking at the site. Subject to the planning application being successful it is intended to commence work on providing these facilities in 2006.



During 2005 the national monuments workforce continued with conservation work on the 18th century church located on the site. The main focus during 2005 was to re-roof the church. As part of the conservation project, and in order to afford it a high level of protection, the Durrow High Cross was moved from the graveyard to the body of the church. This project is being funded under the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

VISITOR SERVICES

A primary function of the Heritage Services in the OPW is the conservation and presentation of built heritage sites that are in its care. During 2005 Visitor Services continued to deliver its extensive ongoing work programme. The following is an overview of some of the main objectives that were achieved during the year:

Guide Service

Safe public access to the built heritage sites was achieved by augmenting the permanent Guides cadre with the recruitment of approximately 350 Guides on a seasonal basis. The total fee-paying visitor numbers of in excess of 2.2 million in 2005 was testament to the enduring popularity of the sites. In addition to this, Heritage Card holders also visited the vast network of sites.

Heritage Card

The OPW Heritage card opens the door to many of Ireland's finest heritage sites and provides unlimited admission for one year to approximately 50 fee-paying heritage sites throughout the country. During 2005 the OPW Heritage Card was redesigned and a gift presentation wallet was introduced. Almost 20,000 Heritage Cards were purchased during 2005 which is a clear indication of the popularity of the heritage sites and also the exceptional value for money which the card affords the holder.

'Family Connections'

Heritage Houses and Castles through Historic Irish Family Lives

This free programme of events was held during September and October at eight of the most significant State-owned architectural and historical properties, maintained by the Office of Public Works. These properties are associated with some of the most notable Irish Families and individuals spanning 800 years and their role in our history is significant, be they Norman, French, Huguenot, English, Gaelic or Anglo-Irish.

Music from the period by some of the leading musicians in the country enhanced the events. During the programme of events some descendants of the families and others with more distant links to the family or property, but all who have a special connection, were present.

Customer Service

During 2005 Visitor Services continued its proactive approach in providing information on the built heritage sites within its remit through various means such as the dedicated marketing website heritageireland.ie and also through high quality brochures which are produced in several languages; Irish, English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. As part of its mission delivery Visitor Services continued to consult regularly with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, State Agencies and other stakeholders in the delivery of heritage services and their improvement.



Procurement Service

The Government Supplies Agency (GSA) provides a centralised procurement service in markets that are amenable to aggregation, for Government Departments and Offices. These goods and services are generally commodity type items available from stable supply markets. They are items that are commonly used across the State often in high volumes.

The total value of the goods and services utilised by Client Departments through Government Supply Agency contracts in 2005 was €54,928,053. A breakdown per market is provided in the following table:

Market	Value (€)
Fuels (Liquid, Gas and Solid)	13,252,317.00
Vehicles & transport	11,493,504.38
Printing & Binding	9,782,880.58
Uniforms & Clothing	6,288,207.00
Stationery & Office Supplies	5,011,264.07
Advertising Services	4,933,466.00
Janitorial Supplies	1,776,376.00
Personal Protective Equipment	1,362,136.00
Footwear	976,078.00
Public Order Equipment	51,824.00
Total	€54,928,053.03

The GSA continued to develop its expertise in the Energy Market in 2005. The GSA was nominated by the Department of Finance as the lead agency to act on behalf of the Central Government sector in the Electricity market. GSA Natural Gas competitions in 2005 resulted in price reduction in excess of 25% from the standard market rate.

Development of aggregation has resulted in increased leverage in the Uniform Clothing and Military Footwear markets. That has resulted in an 8% reduction in uniform prices over those achieved three years ago and a 30% reduction in the cost of footwear when compared with spot market prices.

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 2005 amounted to €979,000.

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.

Corporate Services

Personnel Services

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 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 2005 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.

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.

Organisation Unit

The Organisation Unit, as part of Corporate Services, performs a vital role in the OPW. It provides and maintains the IT, telecommunications, and office equipment infrastructure that underpins the activities of the rest of the Office. The unit has undergone significant changes in 2005 which will continue in 2006 with a continued emphasis on performance review and delivery of work targets. During 2005 the Legal Services Section was integrated into the Organisation Unit and shares the same location thus allowing a greater transfer of skills among the members of the Unit.

The Main focus in 2005 was the delivery of the projects and services set out in the Business Plan as approved by the IT User group. The IT User group, which represents the business areas within the OPW, make recommendations, authorise and prioritise all major IT projects.

Outlines of key areas of work undertaken by the Organisation Unit in 2005 are as follows:

(a) Flood hazard mapping system

Continued to provide IT support to Engineering Services during the development phase of the Flood Hazard Mapping System. The System is due to go live in 2006.

(b) Installation of wireless computer network in National Botanic Gardens

A new wireless network was installed throughout the Botanic Gardens complex replacing obsolete fibre optic cable. This new network provides a flexible and efficient method of data communication within the complex.

(c) Upgrade of Corepay system

An upgrade of the Corepay system was undertaken during the year and a new web-enabled version will be rolled out to pay clerks early in 2006.

(d) Farmleigh, Phoenix Park

A Customer Survey Database was designed and provided to staff in Farmleigh to enable them monitor visitor satisfaction with the various services provided at Farmleigh.

(e) Visitor Services Guides Interview Database

A database was designed and provided to Education & Visitor Services to maintain information on seasonal workers

(f) Voice mail, added facility

During 2005, voice mail was extended to all OPW sites as an additional facility.

Scale of operation

The following gives an indication of the scale of the ICT operation in OPW

Description	Quantity
Sites supported	120 approx.
No. of computer users	1,100 approx.
Servers supported	65 approx.
Printers supported	180 approx.
Photocopiers supported	130 approx.
Software applications supported	120 approx.
Mobile phones supported	600 approx.
Fax machines supported	140 approx.
Help desk calls	11,313

Upgrade of ICT infrastructure facilities

Several significant infrastructural upgrades were undertaken during 2005. These included the provision of improved data services to the Government Virtual Private Network (VPN), the revamping of the OPW Head office computer rooms, and the installation of new data archiving software (Caminosoft). The upgrade of the 45 no. Novell Netware servers to version 6.5 began in 2005, and will be completed in early 2006. This upgrade will provide additional facilities to staff including "virtual office" and remote file access.

Customer Survey

The Organisation Unit also introduced a monthly Customer Survey in 2005. This involved taking random samples of Helpdesk calls completed each month and asking OPW end users for feedback on how those calls were dealt with from their perspective. The feedback received will allow the Organisation Unit to analyse Helpdesk call performance with a view to improving the level of service offered to its customers.

Procurement

During the year Organisation Unit moved all its tendering to the government e-tenders website and utilised the expanding functionality of this site. All tenders utilise the "secure mailbox" option available on the e-tenders website for the submission of tender documents. This "mailbox" requires two nominated officers to independently "unlock" it after expiry of tender deadline

Legal Services Section

In 2005, Legal Services continued to liaise with the State Claims Agency (SCA) in the reporting of accidents and providing follow up documentation in line with the Protocol agreed between the two organizations in 2002.

Agreement was reached with the Chief State Solicitor's Office on the provision of the full range of legal services required by OPW. A panel of solicitors was chosen following a tender and interview process and a Service Level Agreement on the procedures to be followed by both parties was agreed and subsequently signed with the Chief State Solicitors Office. The Service Level Agreement provides for the regular review of the service provided and a review is scheduled to take place in 2006.

Freedom of Information (FOI) Unit

The efficient and effective handling of FOI requests continued to be a priority during 2005. The total number of requests dealt with during the year amounted to 61 and where appropriate, requesters were given every assistance with access to records without having to make a formal FOI application.

The Guide to the Functions, Records, Rules and Practices of the Office, a requirement under Sections 15 and 16 of the FOI Act which is available on the OPW website, was updated. The FOI Unit section of the Intranet has been expanded to include a Decision Maker's Manual and a guide to the more common exemptions used in the course of making a decision on an FOI request. A template decision letter is also shown.

Continuing its commitment to best practice and compliance with the provisions of the FOI Act, the FOI Unit is represented at the meetings of the Civil Service Users Network (CSUN) and the Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG). These networks provide a forum for discussion of cases with colleagues from other Civil Service Departments and Offices and contribute to the overall development of the FOI ethos.

As a result of a Derogation Order signed by the Chairman all staff from the grade of Executive Officer upwards are authorised to be appointed Decision Makers and all staff of the grade of Higher Executive Officer and upwards authorised to be appointed Internal Reviewers. Applications were invited for relevant staff to attend formal training provided by CMOD. This training will take place early in 2006.

The following table sets out a summary of the FOI activity during the year. Requests from journalists accounted for most of the FOI requests received.

Total Requests received	61
Journalists	22
Business	16
Members of the Oireachtas	5
Staff Members	0
Other	18

Summary

In summary the work carried out within the Organisation Unit is both extensive and varied, and vital for the operation of the OPW. The acquisition of new reporting tools has enabled systems to be analysed and potential problems rectified before they become more serious.

Training Unit

The customised Performance Management and Development System was implemented by the non-established State industrial staff of the Heritage Services and, to this end, the training programme for Heritage staff was completed with the attendance of 118 staff at training delivered by Training Unit staff.

In 2005 the Upward Feedback element of PMDS was customised for use of OPW's non-established State industrial staff. This customisation was carried out by Training Unit in collaboration with Pat Donovan of Engineering Services. A Training Programme was then devised and delivered by Training Unit with a view to the implementation of Upward Feedback in 2006. In 2005 this Training was delivered to 354 staff and the programme will be completed in early 2006. It is intended to introduce Upward Feedback to the Heritage staff in 2007 and a training programme for those staff is planned for late 2006.

PMDS for established staff continued to be implemented in 2005. With the further integration of PMDS with Human Resources Management Policy and the introduction of a revised staff Rating System in 2006 Training Unit have developed a Training Programme for all staff which it is hoped to deliver in early 2006.

Among the courses organised by Training Unit were courses in I.T. skills such as Excel, Access and Word. Other competencies for which courses were organised included Report Writing, Meetings Skills, and Procurement. Interview Skills training was provided to all staff applying for interview competitions. The Refund of Fees Scheme continues to be very successful in assisting staff members who are attending courses of Higher Education in their own time.

A total of 36 staff members attended pre-retirement courses.

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, and
- briefing the Minister and Management Advisory Committee on financial issues.

In 2005, Accounts Branch processed

- 37,000 Instructions to Pay (ITPs),
- 7,700 receipts,
- 5,520 travel claims,
- 3,600 rental payments and
- paid the salaries and wages of 2,450 staff.

In addition, Accounts Branch managed voted and non-voted expenditure totalling €517m, receipts of €136m and €33.2m in Local Loans repayments.

In October 2005, a major upgrade of Corepay hardware and software was implemented in the payroll area. This involved the replacement of all existing software and hardware including the web-enablement of the system, which will allow for further system developments to take place. One of the additional facilities made possible through the upgrade is the on-line Core system, allowing paysites to remotely access the Core payroll system. This will be rolled out to all paysites in 2006.

The main task facing Accounts Branch in 2006 will be the implementation of the new Integra e-Financial System within Accounts Branch, which is the first phase of the Management Information Framework (MIF). The roll-out of MIF throughout the OPW is being managed by the MIF Central Section based in head office.

MIF Section

The MIF Section is responsible for the development 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.

The first phase of the MIF is the development and introduction of a modern financial management system. In early 2005, OPW awarded a contract to a Dublin firm, iB Solutions for the supply and implementation of the Integra e-Financials system in the Office. Throughout 2005, the MIF Section, together with the IT Unit, the Management Accounting Service and the Accounts Branch, has been engaged with the contractors in the building of the new Financial System. This has included the design and building of a new coding structure for the Office's accounting system and the installation and testing of software.

The Integra system is due to go live in the Office at the end of March 2006, and will replace the Votes system which has managed the Office's financial and payment records for over 20 years. The significant advantages of the Integra system over the previous system will include the provision of full purchase-to-pay functionality across the organisation and the ability to carry out many financial transactions at desktop level with a reduction in paper transactions.

Management Accounting Service

The strategic focus of the Management Accounting Service was on development of the Management Information Framework project during the course of 2005. Annual and periodic accounts or financial statements were produced in respect of Architectural Services, Procurement Services, Farnleigh, 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

Internal Audit carried out audits of all Business Units and Support Services in 2005. These audits examined the risk assessments produced by these units as well as compliance matters.

The Audit Committee oversees the operation of the internal audit function in the Office and two of its three members, including the Chair, are external members.

Art Management Office

The OPW Art Management Office had a very busy year during 2005 with increasing demand from many sources for advice and assistance. Many original prints, paintings and some sculptures were purchased and commissioned under the Government's Per Cent for Art Scheme on a regular basis throughout the year as monies became available for new buildings and refurbishments in the public sector. This necessitated many visits to art galleries, art exhibitions, auctions and artists studios in Dublin and elsewhere. In addition, much advice and assistance was given by staff of the Art Management Office to undergraduate and post-graduate students researching modern Irish Art as subjects for theses and books.

Also, the Art of the State 2005 exhibition titled 'Across Boundaries' was prepared in co-operation with the Department of Finance and Personnel of Northern Ireland and toured to seven venues, north and south, during the year, including heritage venues Rathfarnham Castle, Emo Court and Fota House (to salute Cork's Year of Culture) as well as Downpatrick, Strabane, Wexford and Belfast. As usual, a fully illustrated catalogue accompanied the exhibition of recent purchases which were viewed and well received by some thousands of the interested public.

In addition, considerable assistance was given to the preparation and installation of the Comerford Collection of Irish and English Portrait Miniatures of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries in Kilkenny Castle during the spring. This outstanding group of four hundred miniature masterpieces is on long-term loan to the nation from private collectors John and Pauline Comerford. The exhibition was formally opened by OPW Chairman Seán Benton in March and afterwards went on view to the general public. Dr. Paul Caffrey of NCAD gave a most interesting public lecture on the collection later in the year. About this time, also, works of art were acquired for EU Commissioner Charles McCreevy who paid a special visit to OPW to select suitable items for his Brussels office. Paintings and sculpture were also acquired and installed in the refurbished offices of the Revenue Commissioners in Dublin Castle in July.

For St. Patrick's Day Art Adviser Pat Murphy was invited to St. John's, Newfoundland where he delivered an illustrated lecture titled 'An Overview of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture in 20th century Ireland' to a large audience. Later in the year he travelled to Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi at the invitation of the Pakistan Government to advise on contemporary Pakistani art and to participate in the organisation of overseas exhibitions. Public lectures were also given at the National Gallery of Ireland, the OPW Atrium and Farmleigh on art subjects during the year. Assistance was given by the Art Management Office in the spring to the Glebe Gallery in Donegal and some works of art were lent to an exhibition curated by Adrian Kelly on the theme of Time which afterwards travelled to the new Farmleigh Gallery, and which was formally opened by An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D.

A number of special art purchases were also made during the year, in addition to the Per Cent for Art Scheme. These included a magnificent portrait of Lady Loftus by the 17th century European master painter Sir Peter Lely for Rathfarnham Castle, and a fine painting of the Burning of Cork Courthouse, 1891 by Eugene McSwiney on behalf of the Court Services in Cork. Also, a number of important works were acquired to replace four paintings on loan to the Taoiseach's Department from Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, which were returned.

Jacque Moore and Pat Murphy visited McKee Barracks during the autumn and gave advice and assistance on plans for an exhibition to commemorate the 1916 Uprising in 2006. They also attended a number of meetings of the Portraits and Paintings Sub-Committee of the Committee on Procedure and Privilege in Leinster House under the chairmanship of the Ceann Comhairle, Dr. Rory O'Hanlon, T.D. In co-operation with OPW Architectural Services Divisions, Jenny Lonergan assisted Angela Rolfe, Assistant Principal Architect in bringing many commissioned art projects to a successful conclusion countrywide including Backweston, the Botanic Gardens, Nenagh Courthouse and elsewhere. The whole team was involved in the arrangements to have twenty two replacement paintings after Raphael painted for the University Church, St. Stephen's Green, to be installed in 2006.

The Art Management Office was augmented by the welcome appointment of conservator Adrian Kennedy to the team during the year, and the newly appointed Principal Architect, Patrick Cooney joined the Art Management Group in the spring.

A number of interesting art exhibitions were staged in the OPW Atrium during 2005 including an impressive collection of oil paintings, drawings and watercolours by Patrick Swift (1927-1983) and sculpture and pictures by Michael Thatcher, some of which were auctioned afterwards with proceeds donated to UNICEF, the United Nations International Children's Education Fund. There was also a poignant but attractive Retrospective Exhibition of paintings in May by the late Tony Treacy (1968-2004) who was formerly on the staff of OPW. Many of the paintings were sold afterwards by the artist's family and the entire proceeds were donated to charity.

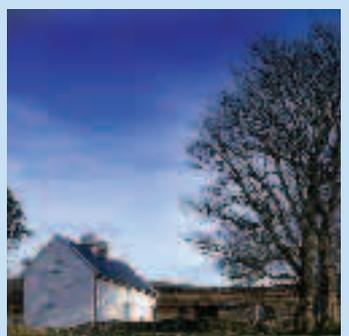
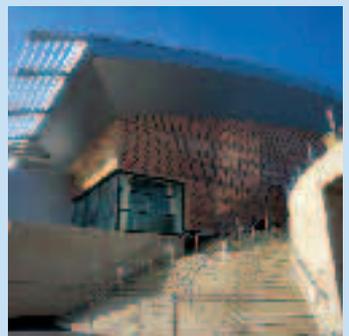
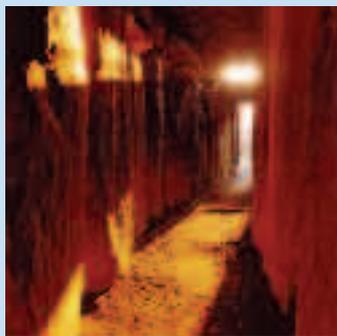
Public Relations Department

The Public Relations Department responds to media and public enquiries in relation to matters within OPW's remit. It also monitors and responds to comment about OPW and its work in the print and broadcast media, thereby, ensuring that OPW's position is fully and fairly represented. The PR Department manage the media presentation of the Minister of State's role at the Office of Public Works and provide briefing material, including speeches, to the Minister as the need arises.

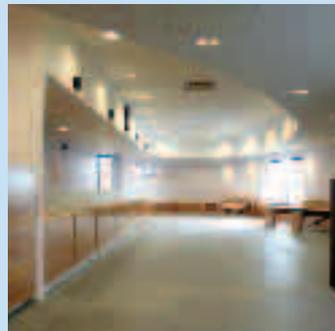
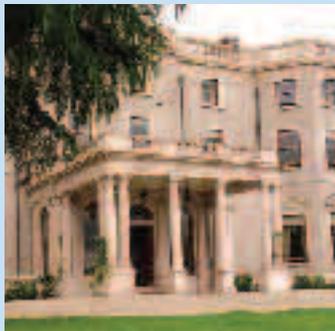
The PR Department produce a number of OPW publications such as the Annual Report and the biannual "Obair" Magazine. These productions are an effective method of promoting, both internally and externally, some of the works and tasks undertaken by the OPW.

In 2005 the PR Department successfully dealt with over 1300 queries from media and the public. A new Media Monitoring contract was successfully placed and relevant OPW press clippings will be available to all OPW staff early in 2006. Significant progress was made in 2005 on upgrading the OPW Intranet, which is expected to go "live" in early 2006. Work on the rebranding and redesign of all OPW websites commenced in 2005 with tenders expected to issue for this project in the second quarter of 2006. The PR Department, in conjunction with Policy Unit, carried out a Customer Survey in early 2005, the results of which can be found elsewhere in this Report.





Financial Review 2005



Expenditure Programme

The table below shows, on a programme basis, all expenditure managed by OPW in 2005 (2004 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	2004	2005
1. Property Management Services		
1.1 Purchase of sites and buildings	7,019	30,754
1.2 Rent, rates etc.	114,481	121,460
Programme Total	121,500	152,214
2. Property Maintenance		
2.1 Maintenance, material and supplies	46,028	49,934
2.2 Fuel, electricity, water, cleaning materials	13,496	1,203
2.3 President's Household Staff	729	702
Programme Total	60,253	51,839
3. Project Management Services		
3.1 Building Programme	246,896	186,739
3.2 Flood Relief (Including Humanitarian Aid)	18,421	16,186
3.3 Grant to Zoological Society of Ireland	2,539	2,539
3.4 Grant to Maynooth College Chapel	750	370
3.5 Grant to Institute for Ireland, Louvain	1,000	1,500
3.6 Grant to Irish Landmark Trust	325	0
Programme Total	269,931	207,334
4. Engineering Services		
4.1 Drainage surveys	933	911
4.2 Maintenance Works - Maintenance costs of completed schemes	15,670	15,840
4.3 Services to the Department of the Marine & Natural Resources	147	36
4.4 Purchase of Engineering plant and machinery	764	906
4.5 Maintenance of Engineering plant and machinery	1,935	1,942
4.6 Engineering Works for Department of AHGI	78	64
Programme Total	19,527	19,699
5. Government Supplies Agency		
5.1 Printing and Publications	22,638	10,306
5.2 General Procurement Services	29,368	53,611
Programme Total	52,006	63,917
6. Heritage Services		
6.1 Historic Properties	21,093	16,242
6.2 National Monuments	16,390	16,822
6.3 Visitor Services	668	7,742
Programme Total	38,151	40,806
7. Corporate Services		
7.1 Salaries, wages and allowances	30,429.3	3,063
7.2 Travel and subsistence	1,783	1,820
7.3 Incidental expenses	1,116	1,321
7.4 Postal and telecommunications services	1,212	1,686
7.5 Office equipment and other office supplies	3,170	3,291
7.6 Office premises expenses	856	897
7.7 Consultancy Services	150	63
Programme Total	38,716	42,141
8. Funds Managed by OPW on behalf of the Department of Finance		
8.1 Local Loans	41,724	33,155
Programme Total	41,724	33,155
Total Gross Expenditure	641,808	611,105
This may be reconciled with Vote 10 expenditure as follows:		
Deduct: Funds Managed by the OPW on behalf of the Department of Finance	41,724	33,155
Works funded by Government Departments	82,483	98,904
Supplies for Government Departments	62,882	63,370
Total	454,719	415,676
Appropriations-in-Aid (receipts) totalled €22,618,915 in 2005.		

Capital and Non-Capital	2004	2005
Funding of Programmes		
1. OPW funded		
Vote 10 (Gross)	454,719	415,676
Total	454,719	415,676
Work funded from the Votes of other Departments		
2. Construction Works & Services		
Department of Education	5,790	10,580
Sundry Works	54,572	63,806
Sundry Rents	6,920	8,728
Maintenance Works	14,227	15,754
Services to the Department of the Marine & Natural Resources	147	36
Supplies for Government Departments		
Printing and Stationery	18,511	10,212
Transport vehicles	13,424	0
Furniture	8,853	8,991
Clothing etc.	6,495	43,927
Advertising	3,937	0
Energy 10,796	242	
General Cleaning Materials etc.	1,693	0
Total	145,365	162,276
Funds managed by the OPW on behalf of the Department of Finance		
3 Local Loans	41,724	33,155
Total	41,724	33,155
<p>1. These involve minor maintenance works on State occupied accommodation.</p> <p>2. Expenditure was incurred on work at Howth Harbour and Killybegs.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4. In addition, Architectural Services certified the payment of sports grants with a capital value of €44.1m for the Department of Arts Sport and Tourism in 2005.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>		

Barretstown Castle Trust

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 December 2004			
	Note	31/12/2004	31/12/2003
		€	€
Income			
Interest receivable	1	4,063	6,350
DIRT Refund	1	-	1,051
		4,063	7,401
Expenses			
Legal and Accountancy fees		1,815	2,146
Camper Scholarship Scheme		5,000	5,000
Barretstown Ball		2,000	1,400
		8,815	8,546
Deficit for year		(4,752)	(1,145)

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2004			
	Note	31/12/2004	31/12/2003
		€	€
Current Assets			
Office of Public Works - current account	6	3	2,831
ACC deposit account	4	259,886	257,333
		259,889	260,164
Current Liabilities			
Accruals	5	7,403	2,926
Net Current Assets		252,486	257,238
Presented by			
Capital Account	6	252,486	257,238

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 December 2004

1. Income

Interest receivable relates to interest earned on the ACC deposit account.

2. Expenses

Under the current lease terms with the Gang Camp, all outgoings including maintenance and repairs of the castle are the responsibility of the Gang Camp.

The Camper Scholarship Scheme payment of €5,000 (2003: €5,000) relates to an undertaking by the trust to renew the sponsorship of a child at the camp for five years from 2003, at a total cost of €25,000.

3. ACC Deposit Account

The balance on the ACC bank deposit account agrees with the bank statement as at 31 December 2004.

4. Creditors

(amounts falling due within one year)

	31/12/2004 €	31/12/2003 €
Ernst & Young:		
- Accountancy Fee	1,815	2,057
Camper Scholarship Scheme	5,000	-
General accrual	488	809
ESB	100	60
	7,403	2,926

The accountancy fee accrual is in respect of the preparation of the financial report for the year ended 31 December 2004.

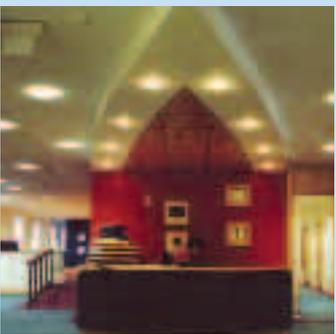
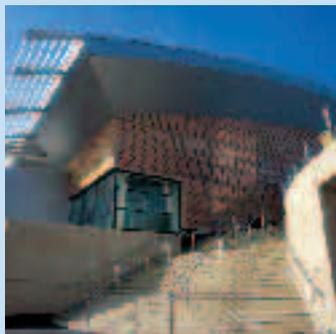
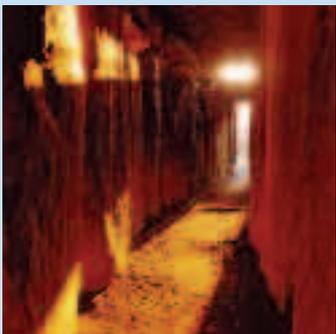
5. The OPW current account of €3 (2003: €2,831) relates to amounts owed to the Trust reflecting the current or "suspense" account maintained by the OPW.

6. The OPW continues to support Barretstown Castle Trust in respect of expenditure on capital works, wages and maintenance. These costs have been accounted for in Government accounts.

Capital Amount	31/12/2004 €	31/12/2003 €
Balance forward	252,238	258,383
Deficit for year	(4,752)	(1,145)
Balance year end	252,486	257,238

7. The financial statements of Barretstown Castle Trust refer only to the management of the trust. The assets (Barretstown Castle and surrounding lands), which the OPW maintains, do not appear in the financial statements of the trust as they were acquired at no cost.

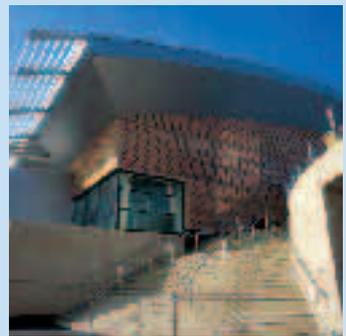
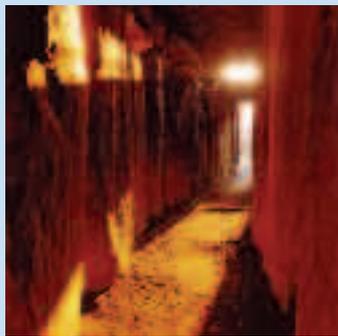
OPW Awards 2005



OPW Awards 2005

Project/Division	Awards Scheme	Clients
OPW Engineering Services	IEI Continued Professional Development Accreditation	
OPW Engineering Services AD Section	ROSPA Bronze Award Managing Occupational Road Risk	
National Botanic Gardens Restoration of major glasshouses	Institute of Horticulture, Norah Stucken Award	
National Botanic Gardens	Premier annual award and cup Alpine Garden Society of Ireland.	
Kilmainham Gaol Museum A/V Presentation	Excellence in Interpretation Award Association for Heritage Interpretation Interpret Britain and Ireland Awards	
Heritage Services Glendalough Visitor Centre	National Award of Excellence 2005 awarded by CIE Tours International.	
Architectural Services	All Ireland Landscape Award	The State Laboratory
Architectural Services 3	Opus Architecture and Construction Award	Backweston
Architectural Services	Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI)	Irish Architectural Archive
Architectural Services 5	Irish Architecture 2005 Award OPUS Architecture and Construction Awards Heritage Award (Conservation and Restoration)	Irish Architectural Archive

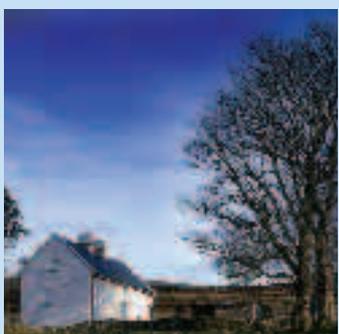
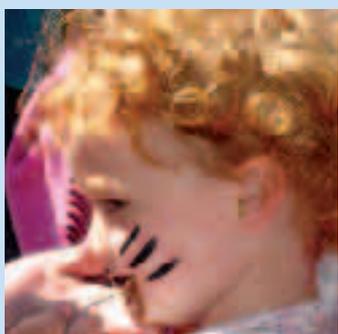
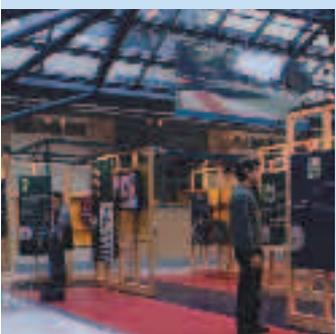
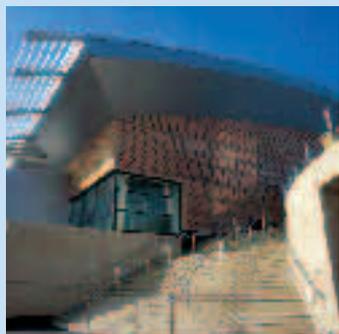
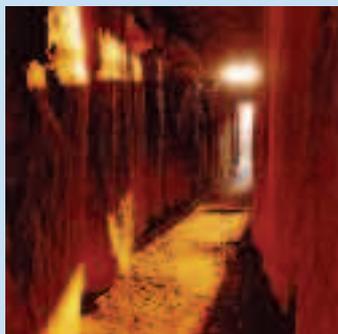
Events in the Atrium 2005



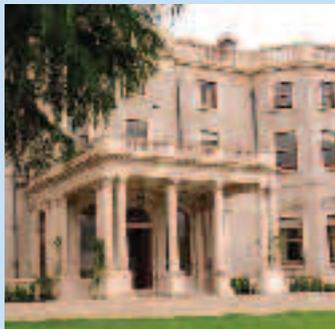
Exhibitions and events during 2005

In the Atrium, 51 St. Stephen's Green

February 23rd - 25th	Launch of The Reflecting City Exhibition
March 16th - 20th	Craft Council of Ireland Exhibition in partnership with St. Patrick's Festival Allianz Irish Visions
April 20th - 29th	"A Characters of Mythology" A mirror to our own Culture (Exhibition and Lecture)
May 16th - 31st	Tony Treacy Exhibition
June 2nd	Irish Architecture Awards 2005
June 14th - 21st	AWARE - "The Aware, Dublin Faces Photography Exhibition
July 1st - August 15th	Oireachtas na Gaeilge, in partnership with Coiste na hÉireann De Festival Interceltique de Lorient - Exhibition promoting all Irish art forms, Music, Song, Dance, literature and the visual arts
July 17th - August 4th	125th Anniversary - St. Stephen's Green Park open to the public
September 5th - 23rd	Patrick Swift Exhibition
October 24th - November 4th	Lundbeck Art Initiative 2005 - Annual Art Exhibition
November 7th - 30th	The Thatcher Collection - exhibition of sculpture and other art works
December 2nd	CPD Presentation - OPW and Accessibility and Energy Management Programme
December 14th - 15th	OPW's Engineering Services Launch of Public Awareness Campaign on flooding.



Staff & Senior Personnel 2005



Staff and Senior Personnel

OPW staff as at 31 December 2005

Min of State and Admin	419
Architectural	155
Engineering	83
Other	41
OPW Grades	1291
Total	1989

Senior Personnel

Seán Benton
Chairman of the Office of Public Works

Property Services
Commissioner David Byers

Project Management Services
Commissioner Clare Mc Grath

Property Management Services

Tom Costello
Principal Officer

Paul Molloy
Principal Officer

Property Maintenance

Des Thorpe
Head of Maintenance

Health and Safety Unit

Kevin Fleming
Assistant Principal Officer

Heritage Services

Dermot Burke
Director

Engineering Services

Tony Smyth
Director of Engineering Services

Jim O'Sullivan
Chief Mechanical & Electrical Engineer

Architectural Services

Pat Cooney
Director of Architectural Services

Liam Egan
Assistant Principal Architect

Michael Haugh
Assistant Principal Architect

Ciaran O'Connor
Assistant Principal Architect

Klaus Unger
Assistant Principal Architect

Finbar Wall
Assistant Principal Architect

Angela Rolfe
Assistant Principal Architect

Facilities Management

Liam Basquille
Principal Officer

Mary Heffernan
General Manager, Farmleigh

Tom Sherlock
Principal Officer

Tom Bolger
John Curtin
John Gallagher
Assistant Chief Engineers

Corporate Services

Vincent Campbell
Director of Corporate Services

Personnel & Development Services

June Thompson
Principal Officer

Organisation Unit, FOI, Legal Services

Enda Mulvihill
Principal Officer

Art Management

Pat Murphy
Art Advisor

Jacquie Moore
Assistant Art Advisor

Tommy O'Shaughnessy
General Manager, Dublin Castle

George Moir
Public Relations Officer

Lorus Collum
Eileen Maher
Employee Assistance Officers

Financial Services and Government Supplies Agency

Joe Farrell
Principal Officer

Project Management Services

Kevin Connolly
Director of Special Projects

John Mc Mahon
John Sydenham
Brian Allen
Principal Officer

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,

Address

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

Heritage Services

6/7 Upper Ely Place, Dublin 2 (01) 647 6000
Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2 (01) 411 7100

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 (056) 7772600
LoCall 1890 213 424

Government Supplies Agency

51 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 (01) 647 6000
LoCall 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) 679 3713

Farmleigh

White's Road, Castleknock, Dublin 15 (01) 815 5900

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

Ballycraine, 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
Government Buildings, Spa Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry	(066) 24479

Hydrology & Hydrometric Services

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) 227 139
Foxford road, Ballina, Co Mayo	(096) 22065

Regional Architectural Offices

Steward's House, White's Road, Castleknock, Dublin 15	(01) 812 8122
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, Arklow, Co Wicklow	(0402) 32761
Government Buildings, Anne St, Wexford	(053) 22470
14 Old Blackrock Road, Cork	(021) 496 6200
The Demesne, Killarney, Co Kerry	(064) 31028
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

Heritage Services Depots

<i>Athenry Depot</i>	
District Works Manager, Raheen, Athenry, Co. Galway	(091) 844 084
<i>Kilkenny Depot</i>	
District Works Manager, Hebron Road Industrial Estate, Kilkenny	(056)7721813/1868
<i>Killarney Depot</i>	
District Works Manager, Ross Castle, Killarney, Co. Kerry	(064) 33565
<i>Mallow Depot</i>	
District Works Manager, Mallow, Co. Cork	022) 42278
<i>Dromahair Depot</i>	
District Works Manager, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim	(071) 916 4186
<i>Trim Depot</i>	
District Works Manager, Newtown, Trim, Co. Meath	(046) 943 1452

OPW Offices and Heritage Sites

