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Department of Rural and Community Development

**Expenditure on Consultancies 2024**

| **Consultancy / organisation** | **Nature of the work conducted** | **Amount Expended in 2024** |
|---|---|---|
| Grant Thornton | Feasibility study on the extension of the Connected Hubs platform to include remote working hubs in Northern Ireland | €82,287 |
| EnvEcon | Research supports on well-being place-based indicators. | €30,750 |
| Forvis Mazars | An external quality assessment of the Department's Internal Audit function as required under IIA Standards | €18,450 |
| Economic and Social Research Institute | Joint research programme with the ESRI. This programme has provided three core reports providing evidence and insights into policy and strategy. | €15,743 |
| Quadra Consulting | Risk assessment reporting (Health & Safety) | €7,985 |
| The Wheel | Public Participation Network Advisory Supports | €23,225 |
| Crowe Consulting | Public Participation Network Implementation Roadmap Consultation | €7,370 |
| McAdam Consulting Services Ltd | Independent advice on Public Participation Network hosting | €738 |
| Sile O'Donnell | HR Advisory Service | €400 |
| Think-tank for Action on Social Change (TASC) | Review of the Community Volunteers Programme | €6,174 |
| OECD | Review of Rural Policy in Ireland (balance of payments) | €75,000 |
| Nathean Analytics | ICT Support for PIMS Lite project (data development project) | €71,854 |

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| **Consultancy / organisation** | **Nature of the work conducted** | **Amount Expended in 2024** |
|---|---|---|
| Match Marketing | Media Campaign for the Local Community Development Committees | €43,957 |
| Inspiring Change | Values Review and Survey | €24,603 |
| Social Justice Ireland | Compilation of Public Participation Network Annual Report and training | €11,000 |
| S3 Solutions | Research into barriers to involvement in Public Participation Networks | €17,730 |
| Stephen Rourke | Public Participation Network Secretariat Network Facilitator | €18,450 |
| Interactions Ltd | Research on SICAP beneficiaries experiences; International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. | €7,896 |
| Greenville Procurement Partners | Procurement supports for delivery of SICAP 2024-2028 | €1,018 |

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**Expenditure on Consultancies 2023**

| **Consultancy / organiation** | **Nature of the work conducted** | **Amount Expended in 2023** |
|---|---|---|
| Economic and Social Research Institute | Joint research programme with the ESRI. This programme has provided three core reports providing evidence and insights into policy and strategy | €65,240 |
| OECD | Review of Rural Policy in Ireland | €175,000 |
| Quadra Consulting | Risk Assessment (Health & Safety) | €1,107 |
| Crowe Advisory Ireland | Balance of payments in 2023 for technical support, event management, and post-event report for National Civic Forum 2022 | €14,311 |
| Think-tank for Action on Social Change (TASC) | Research project to map the current national practice of commissioning (and contracting) for services from the community and voluntary sector in Ireland | €25,450 |
| Amárach Research (In consortium with SERI and ILDN) | To carry out the first Data Gathering Exercise of Social Enterprise in Ireland. (Final 20% was paid in 2023) | €25,080 |
| Grant Thornton | Development and delivery of tailored Leadership Development Programme to align with People Strategy and Values | €78,060 |
| Values Lab | Evaluation of the Community Development Pilot Programme over the three-year period of the Programme. – 2nd payment | €6,560 |
| Crowe Ireland | Facilitation of a round table discussion with the Department and Volunteer Centres | €5,483 |
| Alice PR | Awareness raising and capacity building of PPNs | €85,000 |
| S3 Solutions | Research on Barriers to Involvement in PPNs | €17,730 |

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| The Wheel | PPN Advisory Supports | €40,843 |
| McAdam Consulting Services Ltd | PPN Hosting Webinar | €1,353 |
| Greenville Procurement Partners | Provision of procurement strategy, advice and support for SICAP 2024-2028 | €5,684 |
| KPMG | External review and broad national stakeholder consultation regarding SICAP 2018-2023 | €23,555 |
| Mason Hayes Curran | Provision of legal advice regarding SICAP 2024-2028 | €15,000 |
| Social Justice Ireland | Development of 2022 Annual Report of PPNs | €10,000 |
| Method Consultants | Upcycling of Bicycles and e-Bikes Pilot Initiative Evaluation Report | €7,995 |

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**Expenditure on Consultancies 2022**

| **Consultancy / organisation** | **Nature of the work conducted** | **Amount Expended in 2022** |
|---|---|---|
| Curran Futures | Investment Fund Consultant to inform the Periodic Critical Review of the Western Development Commission | €22,140 |
| Amárach Research (in consortium with SERI and ILDN) | To carry out the first Data Gathering Exercise of Social Enterprise in Ireland.<br>First 80% paid in 2022 – Balance paid in 2023 | €100,319 |
| NorthPoint Aviation | Consultation service in publishing a EU compliant PSO air service Tender document for the Aran Islands air service | €2,328 |
| Onside | Support with the renewal of sponsorship for the SuperValu TidyTowns competition for the period 2023-2027 | €27,675 |
| John McCarthy | Review of Rural Schemes | €4,901 |
| Crowe Advisory Ireland | Facilitate the design, planning and hosting of a national civic forum event including preparatory focus groups, a mid-project progress report with recommendations and a project outcomes report. (Balance paid in 2023) | €19,932 |

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| Grant Thornton | Support with the development of Our People Strategy 2022-2025, DRCD Values, and a Leadership Development Programme. | €103,960 |
| William Parnell and Ciaran Lynch | Developing an Effective Rural Proofing Model For Ireland | €5,000 |
| Social Justice Ireland | Development of 2021 Annual Report of PPNs | €10,000 |
| Values Lab | Evaluation of Pilot Community Development Programme – 1st Payment | €6,560 |
| Quality Matters | Ability Programme Evaluation 2018-2021 | €62,361 |
| Economic and Social Research Institute | Joint research programme with the ESRI. This programme has provided three core reports providing evidence and insights into policy and strategy. | €56,107.54 |

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**Expenditure on Consultancies 2021**

| **Consultancy / organisation** | **Nature of the work conducted** | **Amount Expended in 2021** |
|---|---|---|
| Mazars | Structural Review of Public Participation Networks, undertaken on foot of the Programme for Government commitment | €71,156 |
| Indecon | An independent overview examination of the landscape of philanthropic giving in Ireland to assist the development of the proposed National Philanthropy Strategy, | €78,555 |
| Venture International Limited | Independent Review of LEADER Delivery Models for the 2014-2020 LEADER Programme | €21,817 |
| North Point Aviation Services | Islands Transport: Re-instating the PSO status for the air service to the Aran Islands | €5,843 |
| Research Contract Agreement with Maynooth University | Balance of payments for review of the CLÁR Programme area designations. | €9,960 |
| Venture International Limited | Review the Pilot Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) scheme (funded 2015/6) | €35,354 |
| Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) | An external review of the Walks Scheme to examine the delivery and strategic development of the Scheme | €66,545 |
| Social Justice Ireland | Development of 2020 Annual Report of PPNs | €10,000 |
| OECD | Review of Social Enterprise sector and Policy Implementation in Ireland. Report 'Boosting Social Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise Development in Ireland' published 2023 | €130,000 |

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**Expenditure on Consultancies 2020**

| **Consultancy / Organisation** | **Nature of the work conducted** | **Amount Expended in 2020** |
|---|---|---|
| Maynooth University | CLÁR Programme Review | €20,086 |
| Social Justice Ireland | PPN User Handbook | €12,000 |
| Social Justice Ireland | Development of 2019 Annual Report of PPNs | €10,000 |
| Indecon | Review of the Community Services Programme | €112,422 |
| RPS | Rollout of the National Broadband Plan - guidance Document for Local Authorities | €83,537 |
| Future Analytics | Network of rural digital working hubs throughout the AEC region - Feasibility study | €19,919 |
| Doonane Construction Services Ltd | Cost report on works completed on LEADER project claim | €1,476 |
| Space Engagers | The Town Centre Living Initiative Six Pilot Towns: Synthesis Report | €6,440 |
| Acrux Consulting | External workplace investigation report | €8,435 |
| DHR Communications | Awareness strategy for social enterprise in Ireland and provision of a half-day workshop | €14,560 |
| Social Justice Ireland | Development and delivery of training and facilitation of workshops on PPN Community Wellbeing Statements | €45,000 |
| Venture International | Review the Pilot Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) scheme | €15,010 |
| Bannon Commercial | Advice regarding purchase of Aerfort Chonamara | €3,383 |
| Kevin Humphreys | Advice regarding aircraft suitable for air service to the Aran Islands | €5,439 |
| Northpoint Aviation | Advice regarding PSO status for the air service to the Aran Islands | €3,976 |

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**Expenditure on Consultancies 2019**

| **Consultancy / organisation** | **Nature of the work conducted** | **Amount Expended in 2019** |
|---|---|---|
| Social Justice Ireland | Development of 2018 Annual Report on PPNs | €9,600 |
| Deloitte Ireland | Dormant Accounts Fund review | €119,458 |
| Athrú Consulting | Support to complete Staff Engagement programme and workshop | €9,840 |
| The Reputations Agency | Marketing and branding for 'the Big Hello' National Community Weekend | €62,250 |
| Space Engagers | Services to Design, management, facilitation and record of Workshop for the Pilot Residential Occupancy Scheme | €10,550 |
| Acrux Consulting | HR external investigation | €3,404 |
| 4SITE | Local Authorities shared telecoms infrastructure development- provision of cost analysis report | €4,176 |
| Social Justice Ireland | Development and delivery of online training programme for 31 PPNs | €90,000 |
| Stephen Rourke | PPN secretariat network facilitation | €27,090 |
| Harriet Emerson | Cork County PPN facilitation | €13,500 |
| Institute of Public Administration | Business Process Improvements | €8,616 |
| Peak Connexxion | Facilitation of Senior Manager Workshops | €6,000 |
| Indecon | Local Authorities development of Local Digital Strategies – provision of information sessions | €37,605 |
| RPS Group | Appropriate Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessment training sessions for LA's | €64,300 |

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| **Consultancy / organisation** | **Nature of the work conducted** | **Amount Expended in 2019** |
|---|---|---|
| Economic and Social Research Institute | Joint research programme with the ESRI. This programme has provided three core reports providing evidence and insights into policy and strategy. | €105,000 |
| Deaglan O'Riain | Consultancy payment for work undertaken on Rural Scheme Financial Spreadsheet | €3,042 |

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**Expenditure on Consultancies 2018**

| **Consultancy / organisation** | **Nature of the work conducted** | **Amount Expended in 2018** |
|---|---|---|
| 4SITE | Shared telecoms infrastructure by Local Authorities - provision of technical support for development of documentation | €19,768 |
| Indecon | Digital Readiness Assessments & Strategy Development Guidelines for all Local Authorities - balance of payments for development and workshop hosting | €99,767 |
| KOSI Corporation Ltd | Project management assistance | €12,823 |

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**Expenditure on Consultancies 2017***

| **Consultancy / organisation** | **Nature of the work conducted by the consultancy** | **Amount Expended in 2017** |
|---|---|---|
| Elevate Strategies Ltd | An assessment of international best practice of State support for organisations charged with promotion/development of social innovation In Ireland and other relevant jurisdictions | €18,819 |
| Indecon | Digital Readiness Assessments & Strategy Development Guidelines – development and workshop hosting | €49,479 |

*This Department was established in July 2017.