

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

**Department of Community, Rural and
Gaeltacht Affairs**

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Mission Statement

‘To promote and support the development of communities and to advance the use of the Irish language’

Message from the Minister

It is a pleasure to present this the Annual Report for the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, which has, of course, recently been reconfigured and renamed the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The Report covers the year 2009, during which the Department continued to deliver on its mission and mandate in relation to communities, whether they be in urban, rural, Gaeltacht or island settings, and, in particular, provided support to those communities that are disadvantaged or vulnerable at a time of very difficult economic circumstances in our country's history.

Throughout the year, the Department worked directly with communities and, in particular, sought to take a co-ordinated approach with other Government Departments and agencies to ensure that our policies and actions have a significant ongoing beneficial impact on the individuals, neighbourhoods and communities that we serve.

Achievements of particular note in 2009 include:

- Roll-out of the new Local and Community Development Programme, which has a budget of €67.5m for 2010;
- Publication of the National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016 and establishment of the Office of the Minister for Drugs;
- Significant progress in terms of the advancement of the walkways and rural recreation agenda;
- The Charities Act, which came into law in February 2009;
- The Department's draft 20-year Strategic Plan to promote the growth in the use of Irish and bilingualism progressed significantly and was published during 2009; and
- Significant progress in relation to the development of the Gaeltacht and the islands, the promotion and maintenance of the Irish language, and matters relating to North/South co-operation.

To all the staff of the Department, to those in the public bodies within our ambit, and to the many communities with whom we work, I, along with my colleagues, Minister of State Mary White, T.D., and Minister of State John Moloney, T.D., express our sincere thanks for their commitment and achievements in 2009 and look forward to working together on delivering on our new programme of work. Finally, I would also like to thank my colleagues, Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, Minister for Social Protection, and John Curran, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and Government Chief Whip, for their commitment and dedication in the area of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Pat Carey, T.D.

Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs

Foreward by the Secretary General

This the eighth Annual Report for the Department, reports on progress made in the implementation of the Department's Statement of Strategy 2008-2010. These high level goals were shaped by policy priorities set out in the Agreed Programme for Government and the Revised Programme for Government published by Government in 2009.

In 2009 considerable progress was made by the Department in terms of delivering on its mandate.

On the Local and Community Development front, work continued on the re-design of the Department's range of programmes to support communities to ensure that optimal benefit is realised from this expenditure. The Community Development Programme and the Local Development Social Inclusion Programmes came to an end on 31 December 2009, and were replaced by the new Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) on 1 January 2010. This new programme will tackle poverty and social exclusion through partnership and constructive engagement between Government and its agencies and people in disadvantaged communities.

Of particular note was the publication of a new National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016, and the establishment of the Office of the Minister for Drugs, which will co-ordinate the National Drugs Strategy to tackle problem drug use in Ireland over the coming period.

In February 2009, the Rural Development Programme Ireland 2007-2013 (RDP) commenced and funding of €425m is available over the lifetime of the programme for measures delivered by this Department. This funding allocation is almost treble that of the previous programme.

The Department is committed to providing a quality service to our customers in Irish and English, and in 2009 published its second Irish Language Scheme. This will be implemented in tandem with the Department's Customer Service Action Plan 2008-2010 over the coming period.

Considerable organisational change challenged the Department with extensive movement and departure of staff in 2009 due to the public service number reducing initiatives introduced by the Department of Finance in March 2009. I want to thank all the staff within our Department, including those who have left and retired from the organisation during the year, and of course the people we work with and serve throughout the country. Their hard work, skills and commitment ensured that we were able to deliver on a very challenging mandate in 2009.

Joe Hamill
Secretary General

Progress in 2009

In line with Section 4 of the Public Service Management Act (PSMA) 1997, this part reports on progress made in 2009 in respect of the high-level goals set out in the Department's Statement of Strategy 2008–2010.

Goal 1 - Developing Communities

To encourage and facilitate communities to pursue social and economic progress

Strategy 1.1:

To develop communities

Community Development Programme (CDP)

In 2009, the Department allocated funding of €20m to 180 projects under the CDP. A total of 350,000 individuals and 20,000 groups benefited from initiatives funded under the programme during the year and an additional 1,162 staff were employed through projects funded under the programme.

During 2009, the Department undertook an evaluation of individual community development projects in order to identify those projects that produce tangible, appropriate benefits for the communities they serve. The vast majority of projects fell into this category and of the 180 projects reviewed, 164 of these are receiving funding under the new Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) in 2010.

The total expenditure for the CDP and the Local Development Social Inclusion Programmes (LDSIP) during 2009 was €73m. The programmes came to an end on 31 December 2009 and were replaced by the new LCDP, which was rolled out nationally from 1 January 2010.

Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDSIP)

The LDSIP comprised a series of measures designed to counter disadvantage and to promote equality and social and economic inclusion.

The LDSIP provided funding for the Integrated Local Development Companies and Urban Partnerships to deliver services to disadvantaged groups under three measures:

- Services for the Unemployed (i.e. Training, Advice, Enterprise);
- Community Development; and
- Community Based Youth-Initiatives.

As a result of the completed cohesion process, the LDSIP was implemented locally during 2009 by 37 integrated local development companies, 16 urban partnerships and 2 employment pacts. Since the beginning of 2009, the LDSIP achieved full

county coverage and funding of in excess of €50m was provided in 2009 under the programme, which came to an end on 31 December 2009.

The New Local and Community Development Programme

The aim of the new Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) is to tackle poverty and social exclusion through partnership and constructive engagement between Government and people in disadvantaged communities. The new programme preserves elements of good practice from the CDP/LDSIP programmes and enables groups to objectively demonstrate the positive impacts they are securing for local communities. The aim of the LCDP is underpinned by four high level goals:

- To promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services;
- To increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural development activities and resources;
- To increase peoples' work readiness and employment prospects; and
- To promote engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities.

Community Services Programme

By the end of 2009, 450 organisations were approved to deliver services under the Community Services Programme (CSP), with 91 new projects approved for funding during 2009. The programme has also seen a significant increase in the number of people employed, with approximately 2,700 now employed compared with an estimated 2,500 a year earlier. A total of €50.4m was expended on the programme in 2009, an increase of almost 7% on the 2008 position.

Scheme of Community Support for Older People (CSOP)

This scheme was suspended for a period during 2009 to provide an opportunity for the Department to undertake a review of its operation. The suspension was lifted at the end of September, which allowed grant support to be provided for the installation of socially monitored alert systems and other items of home security.

During 2009, 432 community and voluntary groups were supported to assist 6,523 older people. Total expenditure in this area amounted to €2.13m during 2009. The policy review has been completed and a revised scheme was introduced early in 2010.

Programme of Grants for Locally Based Community and Voluntary Organisations

During 2009, projects were undertaken by 231 community based organisations under this programme and funding of €3.1m was provided in this regard. These projects included refurbishment works, installation of equipment and training of volunteers and staff. The programme was suspended on 27th February 2009 for new applicants due to a restriction in the level of resources available.

White Paper Grants Scheme

During the year, just over €6.5 million was expended to support 71 national organisations in order to support enhanced service delivery in the community, and to support those that contribute to policy-making via the Social Partnership process. The funding was provided to meet core costs and related overheads incurred by the organisations.

The Dormant Accounts Fund

During 2009, the Department worked with the Dormant Accounts Board and the Department of Finance to identify additional sources of funds that might be considered for transfer to the Dormant Accounts Fund. It was agreed not to pursue this initiative in view of the limited resources that were identified and the impacts this might entail. Uncommitted funds at the end of December 2009 amounted to €41.4m, with net inflows to the Account in 2009 amounting to €22.5m. Government approved funds for over 550 projects in RAPID areas, with disbursements valued at around €7.5m. Over €1.5m was made available to 80 projects providing support services for families of drug misusers and a drugs supply reduction campaign, in addition to €300,000 for a 'Dial to Stop Drug Dealing' initiative run in 10 regions. At the end of 2009, Government approved a General Scheme for a Bill to dissolve the Dormant Accounts Board and to make the necessary related provisions for the transfer of its functions and improvements to the internal processing of applications and assessments.

Strategy 1.2:

To support volunteering and active citizenship.

Active Citizenship

During 2009, the Department provided funding to support 21 volunteer centres and other active citizenship measures, including a cross border volunteering initiative. By the end of the year, in excess of 13,000 volunteers and 870 volunteer-involving organisations were registered by the centres. 61% of registered volunteers had never previously volunteered and 69% were under 35 years of age.

The Department supported other practical activities to encourage greater active citizenship including the Young Social Innovators Initiative, a project with Focus Ireland to support the placement of social science graduates within the organisation, and Boardmatch, an organisation which aims to strengthen boards of management and management committees of non-profit organisations.

In 2009, the Department continued to support a cross-border volunteering initiative with the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland. The project involves three groups – the GAA, Voluntary Arts Ireland and the Church of Ireland. Its objective is to pilot action research in the area of the recruitment of volunteers. In all, the Department spent in excess of €3.6m in 2009 in support of such active citizenship measures.

Strategy 1.3:

To facilitate integrated development in areas of disadvantage.

RAPID Programme: Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development

RAPID is a focused Government initiative to target the 46 most disadvantaged urban areas and provincial towns in the country. The RAPID programme aims to ensure that priority attention is given to tackling the spatial concentration of poverty and social exclusion within the designated RAPID areas nationally. This Department initiated the RAPID leverage schemes in 2004 in order to support small-scale projects identified locally by the Area Implementation Teams in each of the RAPID areas. These schemes are co-funded by this Department with the relevant Department or State Agency. In 2009, over €9m was expended by this Department in the 46 designated RAPID areas through the leverage schemes.

A Government decision of May 2009, extended RAPID status to 5 new areas. The new areas are Ballina, Co. Mayo, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

During 2009, the programme focused on seven key strategic themes:

- Community safety and anti-social behaviour
- Family support
- Youth supports
- Physical environment
- Education
- Health
- Employment/Training

Strategy 1.4:

Improve service delivery to communities.

Programme redesign and restructuring

The Department was established in 2002 against a background of concern at the multiplicity of structures and agencies through which local and community development schemes and programmes are delivered. The cohesion process initiated by the Department a number of years ago to address these issues resulted in a significant reduction of local delivery structures for a range of rural and local development programmes. Until last year, there were almost 100 Partnerships and LEADER companies operating and the cohesion process has resulted in that being reduced to a total of 53 entities providing full county-wide coverage across the

country. Notwithstanding that achievement, the Department still has a significant reform agenda to advance. The next phase, which is underway, concerns improving and joining up the outputs of programmes, as well as further advancing the consolidation of community and local development structures.

For some time now, there has been a need to redesign the community development/social inclusion programmes, particularly the Local Development Social Inclusion and Community Development Programmes, drawing on good international practice and to provide for ongoing evaluation of the programmes.

Centre for Effective Services (CES)

In 2008, the Department asked the Centre for Effective Services, which is an independent centre set up in a partnership between the Government and Atlantic Philanthropies to promote evidence-based policy and practice in child, family and community services, to review the design of the Community Development Programme and the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme.

The CES, following a review of practice internationally, found that:

- There is clear consensus that the structure and governance of community and local development programmes is critical to their successful functioning.
- There is overwhelming consensus across developed countries with mature community development sectors that the partnership model favours good outcomes.
- It is a well-established principle in many fields of human services that effective programme design is generally ‘outcomes-led’ or results-driven.
- Given the wide potential scope of community development activities, effective programmes generally have to restrict the number of priorities for change that they address through their programme design, focusing in on a carefully selected group of feasible activities while bearing in mind local resources and other capacity issues.

Key areas for future attention, which are incorporated into the CES-designed new Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP), include structure and governance, as well as monitoring, evaluation and feedback.

Strategy 1.5:

To comprehensively reform the law to ensure accountability and to protect against abuse of charitable status and fraud.

The Charities Act 2009

Charities in Ireland have been unregulated since the foundation of the State. The Charities Act, which came into law in February 2009, will, when commenced, provide a robust, statutory, regulatory framework for charities and will enhance the accountability and transparency of charities operating in Ireland. It will also, by introducing a register of charities that will be maintained by a new Charities

Regulatory Authority, enable the public to make more informed decisions about which charities and charitable causes they choose to support. It will also modernise the permit system that applies to charitable collections, particularly by bringing non-cash collectors into the permit system for the first time.

The Department commenced rolling out an implementation plan for the Act in 2009. This plan will ensure that the essential elements are in place to enable the introduction in due course of the statutory regulatory framework provided for in the Act. In other countries, it has taken a number of years after enactment of the legislation for the new regulatory system for charities to be formally introduced. This is likely to be the case in Ireland also, though some further provisions of the Act may be commenced before the bulk of the Act is commenced.

Agreed Codes of Good Practice for charitable fund raising

The regulation of fundraising is a key element in the regulation of charities. It is considered that such regulation would best be achieved through voluntary Codes of Practice, although there is a reserve power in the Charities Act 2009 for the Minister to regulate the manner and conduct of collections on a statutory basis should it be considered necessary. During 2009, the Charities Regulation Unit has been working in partnership with the Charities sector, through an umbrella organisation, Irish Charities Tax Research Ltd, to progress the implementation and monitoring of Codes of Practice for Fundraising. Substantial progress has been made in this regard. An implementation group was established and the first dissemination events for charities on the resource materials for the Implementation of the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising were scheduled for early 2010.

GuideStar Ireland

The outcome of a feasibility study previously funded by the Department found that there is potential for and considerable merit in the development of a comprehensive, free, database of Irish non-profit bodies, and that this would remove a significant obstacle to the development of the charities sector in Ireland, by informing all relevant stakeholders of the range and nature of charitable, and indeed other non-profit, activities in this country. This 3-year project commenced in 2009 and is proceeding on schedule. It is being co-funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs (through Irish Aid) and other non-Exchequer sources.

Goal 2 – Tackling Problem Drugs Use

To facilitate a more integrated and co-ordinated response by State Agencies and the Community and Voluntary Sectors to tackle problem drug use with the aim of significantly reducing the harm caused to individuals and society

Strategy 2.1:

To co-ordinate an overall strategy to tackle problem drug use in Ireland.

National Drug Strategy 2009-2016

Proposals for a new National Drugs Strategy were finalised in the first half of 2009. In June, Government approved a National Drugs Strategy to cover the period 2009 to 2016. This strategy was launched in September as the interim National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016. Government also approved the establishment of an Office of the Minister for Drugs (OMD) to subsume the functions previously undertaken by the National Drugs Strategy Team and the Drugs Strategy Unit of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

In March 2009, Government approved the development of a National Substance Misuse Strategy to incorporate drugs and alcohol. A Steering Group, jointly chaired by the OMD and the Department of Health and Children, was established to develop the strategy for the period up to 2016. A consultation process began in December and it is envisaged that a strategy will be in place by the end of 2010.

Drugs Rehabilitation

Arising from the recommendations of the Report of the Working Group on Drugs Rehabilitation, a National Drugs Rehabilitation Implementation Committee has been established, chaired by the HSE. Work is progressing towards the implementation of the recommendations of the report especially in the areas of interagency working, case management, quality standards and service level agreements.

National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD)

The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) advises Government in relation to the prevalence, prevention, treatment and consequences of drug misuse.

The reports published by the NACD in 2009 included the following:

- Drug Use in Ireland & Northern Ireland: Updated Results from the 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Bulletin 1: Updated confidence Intervals. Published on the web only in February 2009.
- Drug Use in Ireland & Northern Ireland: 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Health Boards (Ireland) and Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland): Updated Results: Bulletin 2: Updated confidence Intervals. Published on the web only in February 2009.

- Drug Use in Ireland & Northern Ireland: Drug Prevalence Survey 2006/2007: Regional Drugs Task Force Areas (RDTFs) Results: Bulletin 2: Confidence Intervals.
Published on the web only in February 2009.
- Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland: 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Sedatives or Tranquillisers, and Anti-depressants Results: *Bulletin 6*.
Published in March 2009.
- Drug Use, Sex Work and the Risk Environment in Dublin.
Published in May 2009.
- Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland: 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Polydrug use results: Bulletin 5.
Published in June 2009.
- Annual Report 2008.
Published on web only in June 2009.
- The ROSIE Study: Drug Treatment Outcomes in Ireland.
Published in June 2009.
- Prevalence of Opiate Use in Ireland 2006: A 3-Source Capture Recapture Study.
Published in December 2009.

British-Irish Council Sectoral Group

In 2009, the British-Irish Council Sectoral Group on the Misuse of Drugs, chaired by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, continued its programme of work with meetings focusing on the following issues:

- Guernsey: youth justice systems
- Ireland: Drug-Related Deaths Indices and policy issues arising
- Scotland: prevention with a focus on psycho-stimulants and awareness campaigns

Inter-jurisdictional co-operation facilitated by the BIC structures continued, especially in regard to strategy development, alcohol issues and new psychoactive substances - issues that are current across the eight BIC members.

Strategy 2.2:

To target the provision of services and facilities to optimise their effect in areas of high problem drug use.

Local Drugs Task Forces (LDTFs)

In 2009, almost €22m was expended to support 340 projects under two rounds of plans of the 14 LDTFs and under the Emerging Needs Fund. The projects focus on the areas of treatment, rehabilitation, education, prevention, awareness and curbing local supply and employ in the region of 300 people. Discussions regarding the

potential mainstreaming of over 280 interim-funded LDTF projects continued in 2009 following their evaluation in the previous years.

Regional Drugs Task Forces (RDTFs)

The ten RDTFs continued to implement their strategic plans during 2009. By the end of the year, nearly €10m was expended to support 146 projects, including targeted funding for Limerick City. The projects focus on the areas of treatment, rehabilitation, education, prevention, awareness and curbing local supply.

Capital Initiatives

The aim of the Premises Initiative Fund is to address the accommodation needs of community based drugs projects in Drugs Task Force areas. In 2009, capital funding of nearly €1.8m was provided for 3 major projects approved in previous years in 3 RDTF areas, including targeted funding for Limerick City. In addition, nearly 100 small scale projects, (refurbishments, renovations and equipment based projects), in 23 Drugs Task Force areas received funding in excess of €0.552m.

Reflecting the priorities set out in the new National Drugs Strategy, particularly in the area of treatment and rehabilitation, dedicated funding of over €1.4m supported eleven large scale projects across the country. The majority of the funding was provided for refurbishment works, including a number of HSE treatment clinics in key targeted areas where methadone treatment waiting lists were the most problematic.

The Regional Youth Initiative was a once-off funding allocation to facilitate capital projects targeted at young people in RDTF areas who are not covered by the YPFSF. Sixteen projects were originally approved, valued at €2.3m and all were completed by the end of 2009.

Cocaine Fund

In 2009, the Department continued to fund new initiatives developed in 2008 aimed at tackling cocaine use in local communities through the Drugs Task Forces. In addition, continued funding was allocated to support existing cocaine specific projects in LDTF areas and also other projects aimed at polydrug or cocaine use. In the region of €0.555m was provided to support 14 projects in 2009.

Rehabilitation Fund

In 2009, the Department continued to fund new initiatives developed in 2008 to support rehabilitation initiatives through the Task Forces and to build on the recommendations of the 2007 Report of the Working Group on Drugs Rehabilitation. In the region of €0.350m was provided to support 10 projects in 2009. Funding of €0.460m in 2009 continued to support three drugs related projects dealing with homeless people.

Dial to Stop Drug Dealing

In 2009, the 'Dial-to-Stop Drug Dealing Campaign' continued to be successfully rolled out in the Drugs Task Force areas. Following on from the first phase of the campaign in 2008, which was run in four LDTF areas and one RDTF area, two further phases ran in 2009 with dedicated funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund and they had five Drugs Task Forces involved in each phase. The aim of the campaign was to encourage people to provide any information that they may have had concerning drug dealing by using a confidential telephone line of the campaign and the information was then forwarded to An Garda Síochána for appropriate follow-up action.

The campaign was originally due to cease operation in September 2009 but was extended with further funding from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs until the end of 2009 due to the positive outcomes being achieved. By the end of 2009, nearly 5,800 calls were made to the phone line with 1,586 reports to An Garda Síochána. A decision was made towards the end of the year to further extend the campaign into 2010.

Goal 3 – Rural Development

To promote and maintain living and working populations in rural areas by helping to foster sustainable and culturally vibrant communities there

Strategy 3.1:

To co-ordinate the implementation of actions for the development of rural communities arising from both national and EU policies.

EU Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

The Rural Development Programme Ireland 2007-2013 (RDP) commenced in February 2009, and under Axes 3 & 4, funding of €425m is available over the lifetime of the programme. This funding allocation is almost treble that of the previous programme.

As a result of an open competitive process for the selection of local action groups in 2008, 36 Local Action Groups (LAGs), formerly known as LEADER companies were contracted in January 2009 to deliver the RDP throughout Ireland. The main aim of the programme is to improve the quality of life in rural areas and facilitate the diversification of the rural economy. Each LAG distributes funding to community groups and individuals in rural areas for a range of activities to be funded under the programme. The activities include the following:

- Diversification into non-agricultural activities
- Support for business creation and development
- Encouragement of tourism activities
- Basic services for the economy and rural population
- Village renewal and development
- Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
- Training
- Skills acquisition and animation for the preparation and implementation of a local development strategy

Significant changes in the new round of funding include increased rates of aid available from 50% to 75% for community projects and an increase in the aid ceilings for capital projects from €100,000 to €200,000 in most cases. In exceptional circumstances, provision has been made to allow for grant aid up to €500,000 for non-commercial community flagship projects. In 2009, over €18m was spent in relation to achieving the overall programme objectives and it is expected that programme activity will increase significantly in 2010 and future years.

While implementation of the programme is at an early stage, a number of key benefits to rural dwellers have already been identified. Project expenditure under the RDP has provided 5,675 days of training for 4,236 rural dwellers in a variety of areas, up skilling rural dwellers to help them to cope with changing economic circumstances. In the current economic climate the importance of supporting micro enterprises is

widely recognised and the business creation and development measure has supported 336 enterprises as well as facilitating the creation of 91 jobs in 2009. Villages and small towns are the focal point for a significant section of the rural community and the 215 investments in community facilities to date has benefited large sections of the population in rural areas.

Strategy 3.2:

To implement various measures designed to improve the economic, social, cultural and physical conditions in rural areas.

Western Development Commission (WDC)

The WDC fosters and supports the economic and social development of the Western Region (Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare). The Commission is also responsible for the operation of the Western Investment Fund, which contributes to the development of the region by investing through equity or loans (but not grants) in business start-up, growth-oriented small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and in community-based measures to encourage enterprise development.

In 2009 the WDC added value and regional focus to the work of national bodies and actively engaged with regional interests through:

- Development of a robust information base on regional issues, most notably on Travel to Work and Labour Catchments, the Creative Industries and an analysis of the employment issues facing the region;
- Initiation of regional projects with partners that delivered real value ‘on the ground’ in a largely rural region with special emphasis on an EU (NPP) funded Renewable Energy programme; and
- The www.LookWest.ie campaign.

In 2009, the WDC provided investment funds totalling €3.7 million across a range of sectors and business types by way of loan finance and/or venture capital, which in turn leveraged a total of €18.6 million in additional investment into the region. Further details of the Commission’s activities are available on its website at www.wdc.ie.

CLÁR Programme

The CLÁR programme provides funding and co-funding to Government Departments, State Agencies and Local Authorities to accelerate investment in selected priority developments. In 2009, the CLÁR programme invested almost €13.60m to support physical, economic and social infrastructure across a variety of measures. The CLÁR measures cover a wide variety of developments, including water and sewerage infrastructure, bi-lingual signage, sports capital grants, minor health projects, school play facilities and coastal projects. In 2009, CLÁR allocated funding to 162 water and sewerage schemes, 91 sports clubs, 32 minor health

projects, 83 school play facilities, 15 coastal projects, 30 Gaeltacht projects and 49 bilingual signage projects.

The Rural Social Scheme (RSS)

The aims of the RSS are to provide income support to farmers and fisherpersons who are in receipt of specified social welfare payments and to provide particular services of benefit to rural communities. The total expenditure under the RSS in 2009 amounted to just under €48.4m. During 2009, there were 2,600 places available on the scheme at participant level and 130 at supervisor level. In addition, 2,675 community based projects were undertaken, which contributed to the range of community activities and facilities available throughout the country.

Rural Recreation

Comhairle na Tuaithe was established to address the three priority issues of:

- Access to the countryside,
- Development of a countryside code, and
- Development of a countryside recreation strategy.

Progress was made during 2009 in the following areas:

- The continued successful implementation of the Walks Scheme, with 14 additional trails and looped walks added, involving 717 landholders.
- The adaptation of disused railways for recreational purposes, such as cycling and walking on the disused track from Newport to Mulranny and the Great Southern Trail.
- The continued activities of twelve Rural Recreation Officers (RROs) in promoting walking tourism in areas where there are clusters of suitable accessible walks and assisting in the development of the Walks Scheme and other rural recreational activities. These RROs are employed by local development companies but funded mainly by the Department with a contribution from Fáilte Ireland.
- The Department provided funding of €636,000 to Coillte to support its rural recreation strategy, allowing it to expand its recreational sites countrywide and to support the maintenance of trails, including car parks, picnic areas, access routes and signage.
- Funding of €338,000 was provided to Fáilte Ireland to assist in the expansion of its looped walks network to 110 trailheads and 170 looped walks and in support of various walking festivals nationwide.
- The second National Trails Day was successfully held in October 2009 in partnership with Coillte, Fáilte Ireland and the National Trails Office and approximately 125 events were held nationwide.

Goal 4 – Gaeltacht and Islands Development

To support Gaeltacht and island communities through the development of infrastructure and the provision of essential services

Strategy 4.1:

Tackling critical infrastructural deficiencies in the Gaeltacht and enhancing the social, cultural and economic fabric of the region.

Improvement Schemes in the Gaeltacht

The Department operates a number of schemes to improve the infrastructure in the Gaeltacht. The objective of these schemes is to enhance the economic fabric of the Gaeltacht and to attract investment to the region. A total of €4.2m was spent on Gaeltacht Infrastructure in 2009, including €3.14m on improving nine Gaeltacht strategic roads and other minor roads, €0.8m on marine works and €0.26m on group water schemes.

Under the Gaeltacht Housing Scheme, the Department pays grants to qualified applicants for the building of new houses in the Gaeltacht or the renovation of their existing houses. As a result of the large number of applications on hand, the housing scheme was suspended on 7 April 2009 but applications for new houses that had full planning permission before 7 April 2009 were accepted up to 15 June 2009. The applications received before these closing dates are being processed in the routine manner.

A significant development in relation to Irish colleges at this time was that from 2010 onwards, the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs would have primary administrative responsibility for the colleges. The Department of Education and Science will continue to have an input into the system in so far as that Department's Inspectors will give advice regarding applications for recognition from the Colleges and also in deciding on the merit of the courses in the Irish Colleges.

Facilities in the Gaeltacht

The number and value of projects that are submitting applications to the Department is increasing and, for that reason, a new application system came into effect in 2009. Applications valued in excess of €500,000 are dealt with on a four stage basis and funding is made at every stage as necessary. The four stages are set out below:

1. Preliminary work, which involves discussion of the application with the Department;
2. Planning stage, which includes design, location, advising , planning permission, etc;
3. An offer is made, which involves undertaking an assessment and approval of the building grant; and
4. The building work commences.

During 2009, 37 projects were completed, including the Family Support Centre, which was completed in Indreabhán, County Galway, with the help of a state grant to the value of €2.7m. The aim of the centre is to provide integrated services to households that are trying to raise their families with Irish. The activities provided in the centre include childcare services, after school services, health services and support for families that are trying to raise their children through Irish and have moved to the district or have returned again from elsewhere. Other services will be established, such as reading clubs, craftwork, music, computing and other services targeting primarily teenagers. The Taoiseach, Brian Cowen T.D. officially opened the Centre in September 2009.

Strategy 4.2:

Promoting employment and enterprise, fostering community development and developing the Gaeltacht economy in order to support Irish as the principal community language.

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Údarás na Gaeltachta is a non-commercial State body which comes under the aegis of the Department. Funding is provided to Údarás na Gaeltachta to develop the Gaeltacht economy for the purposes of encouraging the preservation and expansion of Irish as the principal community language. To this end, Údarás promotes employment and enterprise in the Gaeltacht through the development of local natural resources, the enhancement of skills and entrepreneurial abilities, in addition to the attraction of mobile investment to the Gaeltacht. It also promotes and supports community development initiatives and a wide range of language and cultural schemes.

In 2009, the overall exchequer provision for Údarás na Gaeltachta was €37.635m. This comprised €11.8m in respect of administration, €4.185m in respect of current programmes and €21.65m in respect of capital expenditure. At year end, there were 7,472 full time equivalent positions supported by An tÚdarás in the Gaeltacht. Further details of the operations of Údarás na Gaeltachta are available at www.udaras.ie.

Strategy 4.3:

Afford recognition to the distinctive heritage and culture of populated islands through a range of support programmes and schemes, including funding for capital and current projects, designed to enhance access services and infrastructure.

Our islands have a valuable natural and man-made heritage, as well as rich cultural and linguistic traditions. The maintenance and development of strong communities

on the islands is a key objective of the Department. During 2009, the Department continued to support island communities by:

- Providing safe, regular high quality access to Islands;
- Funding a wide range of capital projects, including construction of airstrips, major pier improvements and the implementation of specific island works programmes. These projects were carried out in co-operation with the relevant local authorities and local communities. Promoting and co-ordinating Government policies in respect of Island Communities; and
- Engaging directly with key community and development interests.

A total of €19.732m was spent on capital works on the islands during 2009.

Key projects progressed and completed include:

- Development of Clifden airstrip
- Completion of Inishbofin airstrip;
- The Cill Rónáin pier and harbour development; and
- The provision of pontoons at Ros an Mhíl.

€5.664m was expended in 2009 in providing passenger and cargo ferry, air and road transport services for remote Islands under twenty two contracts administered by the Department. These contracts ensure the provision of regular access for Island communities to the mainland at an affordable cost to Island residents.

Goal 5 – Promotion and Maintenance of the Irish Language

To increase the use of the Irish language countrywide and to support it as the everyday community language in the Gaeltacht

Strategy 5.1:

To develop a 20 year Strategic Plan for the growth in the use of Irish and in bilingualism.

The draft 20-year strategy for the Irish language was published in November 2009. The draft strategy is based on the objectives set out in the Government's policy statement on Irish, which was published in December 2006. It takes account of the outcomes from a widespread public consultation throughout the country, as well as advice from international experts. It is intended that the strategy will be a comprehensive road map and will lay the foundation for practical action for supporting and promoting the language, based on a modern, integrated approach.

The headline objective of the proposed 20-year strategic plan for the Irish language is to increase the number of people who are functionally bilingual in Irish and English and specifically to increase the number of daily speakers from 85,000 to 250,000 and to increase the total number of those with Irish from 1.6 million to 2 million.

Government considers that this is a realistic but challenging objective, which will require interventions across a range of public bodies and policy areas.

Strategy 5.2:

To secure better provision of public services through Irish through phased implementation of the Official Languages Act and other measures.

Official Languages Act 2003

The process of implementing the Official Languages Act on a phased basis continued in 2009. 15 additional first language schemes covering 26 public bodies were confirmed by the Minister and published on the website of An Coimisinéir Teanga during the year. By the end of 2009, a total of 100 first schemes covering 181 public bodies had been confirmed by the Minister and published. In addition, a total of 31 draft inaugural schemes covering 43 public bodies were in the course of preparation.

The year 2009 also saw for the first time the confirmation by the Minister of renewed, second language schemes. By the end of the year, 8 second schemes had been confirmed by the Minister and published, including that of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, and a further 48 draft second schemes covering 84 public bodies were in the course of preparation.

On 1st October 2008, the Minister made regulations under Section 9(1) of the Act relating to the use of Irish and of Irish and English together on stationary, signage and pre-recorded oral announcements. These regulations came into effect on 1 March 2009.

Oifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla

The role of the Coimisinéir Teanga is to supervise and monitor the Act, including regulations made under the Act, and to ensure that it is implemented. The Coimisinéir is independent in the performance of his functions.

Central Translation Unit

The Central Translation Unit was established in the Department in October 2009, following a Government decision to establish a Central Translation Unit to translate Statutory Instruments and to take forward a review of the Official Standard for Irish. Recruiting of translation staff commenced immediately.

Strategy 5.3:

Promote the availability of qualified persons with Irish language skills to meet EU recruitment needs and the needs of public bodies in Ireland.

Irish Language Skills Initiative

Irish became an official and working language of the EU with effect from 1 January 2007. This was a very significant achievement for the language, which presents significant opportunities and significant challenges for the language and for the Department and the Irish language bodies that we work with.

Funding continued to be made available during 2009 under a dedicated fund set up in 2006 to facilitate the accelerated provision of specified 3rd level Irish language courses to help meet requirements arising from the implementation of the Official Languages Act 2003 and the recognition by the EU of Irish as a full working language. By the end of 2009, eight full-time courses and two intensive short-term courses were in operation.

The accreditation system for translators developed by Foras na Gaeilge continued to be rolled out. By the end of 2009, a total of 147 individual translators had been accredited under the system.

Ciste na Gaeilge

Funding continued to be provided from Ciste na Gaeilge to support a range of Irish language organisations and initiatives. During 2009, a total of €5.8m was paid from the Ciste. This included current and capital grants paid to various Irish language organisations operating outside the Gaeltacht, for example Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Gael Taca, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe and Conradh na Gaeilge.

In recent years, a number of sub-funds were initiated under Ciste na Gaeilge. The above figure of €5.8m includes the following amounts paid out under these sub-funds during 2009:

- €.99m was provided to 34 institutions under the Fo-Chiste Tríú Leibhéal to support the teaching of Irish at third level institutions abroad.
- €.39m was paid to 3 organisations under the Fo-Chiste Gnó to support the Irish language in the business community.
- €.55m was paid to support research on Irish language placenames under the Fo-Chiste logainmneacha.
- Capital funding was provided to upgrade 2 Lár Ionaid Gaeilge.

Strategy 5.4:

To promote strategic and language planning initiatives to meet the linguistic requirements of the Gaeltacht.

This measure is to enable language planning projects in Gaeltacht districts in partnership with locally based community organisations. In 2009, grants of between €75,000 and €110,000 were approved for various groups throughout the Gaeltacht for language planning initiatives.

With state aid, support was given to certain communities in the Gaeltacht to develop Irish in their own districts through administering local language support schemes on a pilot basis. A total of €.38 was paid to 8 organisations during the year and the pilot scheme ended in December 2009.

Strategy 5.5:

To foster the language and the culture of the Gaeltacht so as to consolidate Irish as its principal community language.

One of the Department's key objectives is to promote the maintenance of the Irish language in the Gaeltacht as its most important community resource and its principal means of communication. The Department operates a number of schemes and programmes aimed at the maintenance, promotion and strengthening of the language in the Gaeltacht.

Cultural Schemes in the Gaeltacht

During 2009, the Department paid €3.61m to organisations who promote cultural events in which Irish plays a central role in the cultural and social life of the Gaeltacht districts. The organisations funded included Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, Gael Uladh, and Cumas/MFG. These organisations administer the Language Assistants Scheme. The objective of Gaelacadamh is to preserve and inspire Irish language and Irish culture among the young. The scheme

for training in football and hurling provides additional training in the skills of these activities through Irish for primary and post primary school pupils. In addition to this, grants were paid to 159 summer camps that were run in the Gaeltacht.

Scéim Champaí Samhraidh trí Ghaeilge d'Aos Óg na Gaeltachta

The objective of the Summer Camp Scheme is to assist in the preservation, extension and retention of Irish in the Gaeltacht and especially to strengthen it as a spoken language among young people of the Gaeltacht. The Department supports committees who organise suitable summer camps through Irish whose aim it is to strengthen the Irish language through organising a range of educational and/or sporting activities. Various activities are provided including computing, craftwork, drama, music, local history, story telling, first-aid and sporting activities. Around 6,000 children participated in the summer camps during 2009 and a total of €347,610 was paid under the scheme in 2009.

Scéim na gCúntóirí Teanga

The Scheme for Language Assistants continued in 2009 also. Under this scheme, Irish language experts are provided to children in Gaeltacht schools whose principal language is not Irish or in cases where they need extra help. In 2009, 70 Gaeltacht schools benefited and a total of €5.54m was paid under the scheme.

Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge

Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge provides a structure to support the development of a strategic and sustainable approach to the development of Irish-medium studies in an integrated manner. It also facilitates the delivery of a substantial portion of the University's Irish-medium programmes in an Irish-speaking environment in Gaeltacht campuses.

Scéim Labhairt na Gaeilge

Under Scéim Labhairt na Gaeilge, the Department may pay a grant of €260 per school year to families in the Gaeltacht who satisfy the Department that Irish is their normal spoken language. Where a family fails to demonstrate the degree of fluency required under the Scheme, the Department may pay a reduced grant of 50%, if it is satisfied that the family can reach the appropriate standard within a period of 3 years.

In 2009, grants were approved for 2,981 households in the Gaeltacht under the scheme. The full grant was paid in the case of 2,379 households and a reduced grant in the case of 602 households. €6.69m was the total value of grants paid under Scéim Labhairt na Gaeilge.

Scéim na bhFoghlaimeoirí Gaeilge

Under Scéim na bhFoghlaimeoirí Gaeilge, grants are paid to Gaeltacht households who accommodate Irish students while they attend recognised Irish courses in the Gaeltacht.

A grant of almost €5.57m was paid to households in the Gaeltacht for accommodating 26,363 Irish scholars in 2009. A small number of scholars stayed in boarding colleges. Under the scheme for adults, a grant to the value of €24,403 in total was paid in 2009 for 1,223 scholars. This scheme is designed to increase the availability of accommodation for Irish language learners in Gaeltacht communities so that the learners can have the opportunity to experience Irish spoken fluently as a native language.

Goal 6 – North/South Co-operation

To maintain, develop and foster North/South co-operation

Strategy 6.1:

To support Waterways Ireland, the North/South Waterways body.

This Department, together with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland and the North/South Ministerial Council supports and funds Waterways Ireland in the management, maintenance, development and restoration of the inland waterways.

In 2009, the Department provided funding to Waterways Ireland amounting to €34.5m. The main outputs achieved during the year included:

- Continued satisfactory progress in its maintenance programme keeping over 99% of the navigable waterways open and available for navigation from April to October.
- Ongoing development of the waterways with the completion of additional moorings totalling 289 metres.
- Waterways Ireland's programme of capital works continued during the year. Works included the completion of the construction of the last swing bridge, (Lyneen Bridge), on the Royal Canal and the commencement of a dredging programme on the Royal Canal and Grand Canal in Dublin.

Waterways Ireland is continuing to progress the restoration of the Ulster Canal between Upper Lough Erne and Clones. Work on the preliminary design stage of the project continued in 2009. Meetings were held with a wide range of statutory agencies and landowners. The physical survey was completed, and work on an Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment progressed.

Waterways Ireland continued its promotional work to raise awareness and encourage use of the waterways through its sponsorship, with over 50 events sponsored by Waterways Ireland during the year, and advertising, public relations and direct marketing programmes. Publications completed during the year included:

- 'Taste of the Waterways' launched by Minister Campbell at the Balmoral Show and Minister Ó Cuív at the Volvo Ocean Race in Galway.
- 'What's On 2009' guide
- 'Ireland's Royal Canal'
- 'The Good Boating Guide' and
- A revised and reprinted version of the brochure 'Glimpse'.

The Lakelands and Inland Waterways initiative, -a joint project between Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Fermanagh Tourism, Tourism

Ireland and Shannon Development in relation to a marketing campaign for the Erne Shannon system from Belleek to Limerick, - continued in this period. Distribution of associated brochures under the overarching title of 'Lakeland and Inland Waterways' is ongoing.

During 2009, Waterways Ireland continued to invest in organisational development and performance management, recruitment and staff training to enable it to deliver on its business objectives and meet all of its statutory obligations and requirements.

Strategy 6.2:

To support An Foras Teanga, the North South Language body.

The Department supports and funds An Foras Teanga (the North-South Language Body) in promoting the Irish language and the Ulster-Scots language and culture, in co-operation with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland and the North/South Ministerial Council Secretariat. Under the auspices of the Language Body, Foras na Gaeilge carries out all of the designated responsibilities regarding the Irish language, including facilitating and promoting the development of Irish in the public and private arena. Similarly, Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch has responsibility for the development of the Ulster-Scots language, including the promotion of greater awareness and use of the language in addition to cultural issues.

During 2009, €16.42m was provided to An Foras Teanga to carry out its work. Arising from a strong working relationship between the two agencies, Foras na Gaeilge and Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch collaborated on a range of projects during the year including:

- Broadcast of a film on TG4 in Irish about the Ulster-Scots language and Culture;
- A series of lectures on the "Aspects of our Shared Heritage" have been agreed with Dungannon and South Tyrone Council.

Progress was made by both agencies in terms of their individual business plans also. In the case of Foras na Gaeilge;

- further examination under the Quality Assurance Scheme for translators was organised in order to address the increasing demand for high quality translators at national and European level;
- Significant advances were made with the memory-assisted translation software project with a software package now available and training was provided in the use of this software;
- Work continued on Phase II of the Irish-English dictionary project with 77% of Phase 2a now complete (the writing of the English frameworks for the dictionary) and Phase 2b (translation) underway;
- A review of the organisations funded by Foras na Gaeilge was completed;
- Financial assistance was provided to 19 Irish language or educational organisation and 17 community projects.

In the case of Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch, the summer schools project was expanded to 38 schools, 12 Ulster Scots touring drama companies visited schools throughout the province of Ulster, 4 pilot Ulster-Scots radio stations were operated, and support was provided to 39 festivals in 2009.

Strategy 6.3:

To promote North/South co-operation in other areas of activity within the Department's remit.

Programme for Peace and Reconciliation – Peace III Programme

Approval for the PEACE III (2007–2013) programme was received from the EU in October 2007. The new programme carries forward key aspects of the previous PEACE I and PEACE II programmes and has a renewed emphasis on reconciliation.

Under Priority 1, Theme 1.2, of the programme, which addresses the theme of 'Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past', €50m will be distributed to projects located in Northern Ireland and also in the six Border Counties. The Department will contribute €18.13m towards this over the life of the programme. In 2009, total funding of €1.796m was provided and at the end of December 2009, 58 projects were approved and letters of offer were issued to 55 of these at a cumulative value of €22.2m.

INTERREG IVA

Approval for the INTERREG IVA (2007-2013) programme was received from the EU in October 2007. The new programme works to address economic and social problems, which have been exacerbated by the existence of land and maritime borders and to promote greater territorial cohesion. It carries forward the key aspects of the previous INTERREG 1, INTERREG II and INTERREG IIIA Programmes. The previous programmes have only operated on a Northern Ireland/Ireland cross-border basis. However, following a re-definition of maritime borders by the European Union, a distinctive aspect of this programme is the inclusion of Western Scotland.

Under Priority 2, Theme 2.1 of the programme looks at developing cross-border infrastructure in areas such as Information and Communications Technology, transport, telecommunications, energy, waste, utilities and environmental protection and a sub-theme of this is Rural Development. €10m will be available for projects under this theme during the lifetime of the programme, €4m of which will be contributed by the Department. A call for applications to the rural development sub theme was opened between 26 June 2009 and 30 October 2009. 15 applications were received by the deadline and are currently being assessed.

Goal 7 – Corporate Support Services

To provide corporate support structures to support the line divisions delivering on the Department's mission, mandate and structures

Strategy 7.1:

Effectively manage the decentralisation of the Department to the advance offices in Tubbercurry, Co Sligo and the new headquarters at Charlestown, Co Mayo.

The Department's decentralisation programme continued during 2009. 100 staff are now located in interim accommodation in Tubbercurry, which represents in excess of 70% of the total number of posts due to decentralise to Charlestown.

In December 2009, in light of budgetary constraints and affordability issues, the Government decided to defer proceeding with permanent accommodation in Charlestown at this time. This location, along with 4 other deferred projects, will be considered as part of the overall review of the Decentralisation Programme in 2011.

Strategy 7.2:

To advance and facilitate public service modernisation in the Department and in the bodies under its aegis.

The Department continues to implement and facilitate the modernisation of the public service as outlined under *Towards 2016*, and as required by Government.

Strategy 7.3

To deliver the highest quality service to our customers by implementing the customer service standards established in our Customer Service Charter.

Quality Customer Service

The Department's Customer Charter 2008-2010 and Customer Service Action Plan 2008-2010 build on the progress made under our previous Charter and Action Plan for the period 2004-2007. The Customer Charter is displayed in our offices through posters and on our website, www.pobail.ie.

The Charter and the Action Plan set out the standards of service our customers can expect in their dealings with us. The Action Plan also sets out a series of actions and measures to progress and ensure the implementation of the principles of quality customer service (QCS).

Strategy 7.4

To develop a data strategy that will enable the timely availability of data to support evidence-based policy-making and to enable staff to use data more effectively in terms of policy formulation and evaluation.

In line with National Statistics Board guidelines, a Departmental Data Strategy Committee was established in the Department to develop and prepare the required Data Strategy and work is ongoing in this regard.

Strategy 7.5:

To build on the Management Information Framework (MIF) to meet the evolving financial and information needs of management.

Strategy 7.6:

To provide a comprehensive accounting service and promote best practice in financial management.

Strategy 7.7

To build on the progress made on e-payment, in line with government policy.

The Management Information Framework (MIF) is embedded in the Department, supporting financial reporting as well as providing enhanced information for managers, using new, customised monthly reports. During 2009, electronic fund transfers (EFT) were used for all payments in respect of salaries and travel & subsistence and over 99% of payments to suppliers and grantees were done via EFT.

The Department continued to foster a culture of ongoing evaluation. During 2009, two *Value for Money* reviews were commenced – one concerning leveraged funding of the CLÁR & RAPID programmes and another in relation to the Rural Social Scheme.

In relation to prompt payments to suppliers, the Department incurred penalty interest in respect of 3 payments out of a total of 1,273 payments made in 2009. The total penalty interest paid was €51.87, which is a 91% reduction when compared with 2008.

On foot of a Government Decision in May 2009, Government Departments were required, with effect from 15th June 2009, to prioritise payments to suppliers within 15 days. 93% of payments were made within 15 days.

Strategy 7.8:

The delivery of quality IT facilities across the Department to support its business objectives, including decentralisation.

Progress was made in upgrading to the Department's ICT infrastructure, including the replacement of particular servers and PC desktops; the upgrade of the network links between the Department's main offices; and the roll-out of a bespoke IT system for the implementation of the EU Rural Development Programme (Axes 3 and 4).

Strategy 7.9:

Effective management of the human resources function.

The Department continues to roll out its HR Strategy 2008-2010, which was published in 2008.

In 2009, the Department's Training and Development Strategy for 2009 –2011 was published. This Strategy seeks to ensure that any skills gaps across the Department are addressed and also further embeds the Performance Management Development System (PMDS) process across the Department.

Strategy 7.10:

To provide a systems-based internal audit function as a service to the Department and to ensure that robust corporate governance arrangements are embedded in the Department and in the bodies that are funded from the Department's vote.

The Internal Audit Unit continues to play a key role in the evaluation of the effectiveness of corporate governance structures and processes within the Department and providing assurance in this regard. The work of the internal audit function is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which the Department is exposed and its annual audit plans are based on this analysis. These plans cover the key controls on a rolling basis over a reasonable period, and the Department's Audit Committee periodically reviews the work of the Internal Audit Unit. The 2009 Audit Plan was implemented in consultation with the Department's Audit Committee.

In 2009, the work of Internal Audit Unit focused on the following main areas:

- Six 'Article 10' audit checks on 2008 expenditure under the LEADER+ and Area Based Rural Development Initiatives were completed and closure work in respect of these EU funded programmes continued.
- Provision of wider advisory, audit and review processes of programmes across the Department.

Strategy 7.11:

To promote quality procurement management within the Department and in the bodies under its aegis.

The Department has a Corporate Procurement Plan, consistent with the programme of procurement management reform prescribed by the National Procurement Policy Framework document, published by the Department of Finance. Recommendations in the Plan continued to be implemented in 2009, including consolidation of invoices where agreed with suppliers and roll-out of further training in procurement procedures.

Corporate Matters

Freedom of Information

During 2009, the Department received 38 requests under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003. Of these 10 were granted, 10 were part-granted, and 5 were refused. A total of 7 applications were withdrawn or handled outside of the FOI Act, and no cases were transferred to another body. 6 cases remained live at the end of the year. The categories of requesters during 2009 were as follows:

Journalists	18
Business	10
Oireachtas members	2
Others	8
Total	38

Bodies within the ambit of the Department, which were subject to FOI at the end of 2009, were:

- Pobal
- Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland
- Western Development Commission
- National Advisory Committee on Drugs
- An Coimisiún Logainmneacha
- Údarás na Gaeltachta

Legislative Activity

The Department was engaged in the following legislative activity in 2009:

No.	Title	Description	RIA
6	Charities Act 2009	To regulate charities so as to secure accountability and to protect against abuse of charitable status and fraud.	Yes

Bills presented to Seanad Éireann and passed:

No.	Title	Description	RIA
6	Charities Act 2009	To regulate charities so as to secure accountability and to protect against abuse of charitable status and fraud.	Yes

Statutory Instruments prepared by the Department:

No.	Title	Description	RIA
S.I. No.	Charities Act 2009	This Order commences	

284 of 2009	(Commencement) Order 2009 1 st September 2009	sections 2, 5, 10 and 99, of the Charities Act 2009 (“the Act”). The purpose of this Order is to make it an offence for a Mass Card to be sold in contravention of the provisions of section 99 of the Act.	
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National Famine Memorial Day

The 2009 National Famine Commemoration was held on 17th May in Skibbereen, County Cork, to remember all those who suffered, perished and emigrated during the Great Irish Famine. An overseas commemoration was also held in Canada on 10th May. Communities around the country were encouraged to hold their own local events to commemorate the famine. A wide range of organisations were invited to observe a minute of silent reflection on 17th May at all public and sporting events. Towards the end of 2009, the National Famine Commemoration Committee began to consider the most appropriate arrangements for the 2010 commemoration of the Famine.

Appendix 1:

Contacting the Department and its agencies and other bodies

Information on the work of the Department may be obtained from our website at www.pobail.ie, or by e-mailing or telephoning the Department's offices as listed below.

1. The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Dún Aímhírgin
43-49 Mespil Road
Dublin 4

Lo-Call:	1890 474 847	
Main Switchboard:	01 647 3000	
Fax:	01 647 3051	
Information/Press Office:	01 647 3130	e-mail: eolas@pobail.ie

Office of the Minister, Office of the Minister of State, Press office, Corporate Services, Central Translation Unit, Irish Language Policy, North/South Co-operation, Drugs Strategy Unit, Charities Regulation, Social Inclusion, Family Policy and Dormant Accounts

2. The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Teeling St.
Tubbercurry
Co. Sligo

Main Switchboard:	071 918 6700
Fax:	071 918 6750

CLÁR, Rural Development Policy, Rural Recreation, Farm Electrification Grants Scheme, EU Rural Development Programme, Local and Community Development Programme, RAPID Programme, Community and Voluntary Supports Division, Seniors Alert Scheme and Accounts Branch

3. The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Na Forbacha
Co. Galway

Lo-Call:	1890 201 401
Main Switchboard:	091 592 555/503 700
Fax:	091 592 595
E-mail:	gaeltachtnaforbacha@pobail.ie

Gaeltacht Schemes, Irish Language Division and Offshore Islands

4. Gaeltacht Regional Offices

Parc Ghnó
Gaobh Dobhair
Na Doirí Beaga
Leitir Ceanainn

Phone: 074 953 1598

Tithe an Rialtais
Trá Lí:

Phone: 066 712 1303

Agencies and other bodies:

An Coimisinéir Teanga is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Official Languages Act and investigating complaints from members of the public.

An Coimisinéir Teanga
An Spidéal
Co Galway

Phone: 091 504 006
Lo-call: 1890 504 006
Fax: 091 504 036
Email: eolas@coimisineir.ie
Website: www.coimisineir.ie

Coimisinéir: Seán Ó Cuirreáin

An Coimisiún Logainmneacha (The Placenames Commission) advises on the research of the placenames of Ireland and on providing authoritative Irish forms of those names for official and public use.

An Coimisiún Logainmneacha
Dún Aimhirgin,
43-49 Bóthar Mespil
Baile Átha Cliath 4

Phone: 01 647 3000
Fax: 01 647 3270
E-mail: placenames@pobail.ie

Chief Placenames Officer: Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig

The Board of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland is mandated under the Charities Acts 1961 and 1973 to provide services to trustees of charities and to carry out the intentions of persons making donations and bequests to charities.

Office of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland
12 Clare Street
Dublin 2

Phone: 01 676 6095
Fax: 01 676 6001
E-mail: charities@eircom.net

Secretary to the Board: Orla Barry Murphy

The Dormant Accounts Board was established on 4 January 2006. The Board is responsible for preparing the Disbursement Plan, which provides the framework under which Government decisions are made in relation to disbursements from the Fund. The Board also reviews and assesses the impact and effectiveness of disbursements from the Fund.

Dormant Accounts Board
P.O Box 10457
Dublin 4

Phone: 01 647 3072
Fax: 01 660 2205
E-mail: info@dormantaccounts.ie
Website: www.dormantaccounts.ie

An Foras Teanga is one of the Cross-Border Implementation Bodies established under the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 and is comprised of **Foras na Gaeilge** and the Ulster-Scots Agency-**Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch**. Foras na Gaeilge has the objective of promoting the Irish language on an all-island basis. Its responsibilities include support of community-based projects, education initiatives, as well as provision of dictionaries, terminology and other resources for the language. Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch has responsibility for the promotion of greater awareness and the use of Ullans and of Ulster-Scots cultural issues, both within Northern Ireland and throughout the island.

Foras na Gaeilge
7 Merrion Square
Dublin 2
Phone: 01 639 8400/1850 325 325
Fax: 01 639 8401

Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch
68 – 70 Muckle Victoria Rae
Bilfawst BT2 7BB
Phone: 028 9023 1113
Phone: 028 9023 1113

Chief Executive: Ferdie Mac an Fhailigh
E-mail: eolas@forasnagaeilge.ie
Website: www.forasnagaeilge.ie

Chief Executive: George Patton
E-mail: info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk
Website: www.ulsterscotsagency.com

National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) was established in July 2000 to advise the Government in relation to the prevalence, prevention, treatment and consequences of problem drug use in Ireland based on analysis of research, findings and information available to it.

National Advisory Committee on Drugs
3rd Floor
Shelbourne House
Shelbourne Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

Phone: 01 667 0760/0765/0781/0832
Fax: 01 667 0828
E-mail: info@nacd.ie
Website: www.nacd.ie

Interim Director:

Susan Scally

Pobal is a not-for-profit company with charitable status that manages the implementation of Exchequer and EU Funded programmes on behalf of Government Departments.

Pobal Chief Executive:
Website:

Mr Denis Leamy
www.pobal.ie

Head Office:

Holbrook House
Holles Street
Dublin 2
Phone: 01 240 0700
Fax: 01 661 0411
E-mail: enquiries@pobal.ie

Cork Office:

Building 1000
Unit 1102
Citygate Business Park
Mahon
Cork
Phone: 01 240 0700
Fax: 021 435 0873

Sligo Office:

Harbour View House
16 Holborn Street
Sligo
Phone: 071 9145373
Fax: 071 9145316

Galway Office:

Millar Building
The Fairgreen
Clifden
Co Galway
Phone: 01 448 4845
Fax: 095 30740

Monaghan Office:

M: TEK II Building
Armagh Road
Monaghan
Co Monaghan
Phone: 047 71340
Fax: 047 7134
Email: info@borderaction.ie
Website: www.borderaction.ie

Limerick Office:

1st Floor, River Front
Lower Shannon Street
Howlen's Quay
Limerick
Phone: 061 408523

Dundalk Office:

Partnership Court
Park Street
Dundalk
Co. Louth
Phone: 042 932 9330
Fax: 042 995 7712

Donegal Office:

1 Millenium Court
Pearse Street
Letterkenny
Donegal
Phone: 074 912 8639
Fax: 074 912 1527

Údarás na Gaeltachta, established in 1980, is a regional development agency that combines an economic development role - that of creating sustainable jobs and attracting investment to the Gaeltacht regions - with community, cultural and language development activities, working in partnership with local communities and organisations.

Údarás na Gaeltachta
Na Forbacha

Phone: 091 503100
Fax: 091 503101

Gaillimh

E-mail: eolas@udaras.ie

Website: www.udaras.ie

Chief Executive:

Pádraig Ó hAoláin

Waterways Ireland is a Cross-Border Implementation Body established under the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999. Waterways Ireland's primary function is the management, maintenance and development, principally for recreation purposes, of the majority of the inland navigable waterway system throughout the island.

Waterways Ireland
2 Sligo Road
Enniskillen
Co. Fermanagh
BT74 7JY

Phone: 028 6632 3004

Fax: 048 6634 6237

E-mail: info@waterwaysireland.org

Website: www.waterwaysireland.org

Chief Executive:

John Martin

The **Western Development Commission (WDC)** is a statutory body promoting economic and social development in the Western Region (defined as the counties of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare). Its three principal activities focus on ensuring that economic and social policy effectively meets the development needs of the Western Region, fostering and promoting regional development initiatives, and managing the Western Investment Fund. This Fund provides risk capital by way of equity and loans on a commercial basis to projects and businesses.

Western Development Commission
Dillon House
Ballaghaderreen
Co. Roscommon

Phone: 094 986 1441

Fax: 094 986 1443

E-mail: info@wdc.ie

Website: www.wdc.ie

Chief Executive Officer:

Lisa McAllister

Appendix 2:

Glossary of Terms

AIT	Area Implementation Team
BMW	Border, Midland & Western
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CE	Community Employment Scheme
CDB	County/City Development Board
CDP	Community Development Programme
CLÁR	Ceantair Laga Ard-Riachtanais
CSOP	Scheme of Community Support for Older People
EU	European Union
FOI	Freedom of Information
HR	Human Resource
ILSU	Irish LEADER Support Unit
IDG	Inter-Departmental Group on Drugs
INTERREG	Community initiative for interregional cooperation which assists border regions and promotes joint projects between beneficiaries in different Member States
IT	Information Technology
LDSIP	Local Development Social Inclusion Programme
LDTF	Local Drugs Task Force
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale (Links between the rural economy and development actions)
MAC	Management Advisory Committee
MIF	Management Information Framework
NACD	National Advisory Committee on Drugs
NDP	National Development Plan
PEACE II	EU Funding Programme to reinforce progress towards a peaceful stable environment and to promote reconciliation
Pobal	Formerly ADM Ltd.
PSMA	Public Service Management Act

RDTF	Regional Drugs Task Force
RAPID	Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development
RIA	Regulatory Impact Analysis
RSS	Rural Social Scheme
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
WDC	Western Development Commission

Appendix 3:

Expenditure in 2009

*The Outturn here is provisional and at the time of compiling this Report, the Comptroller and Auditor General had not completed the Department's 2009 Appropriation Account.

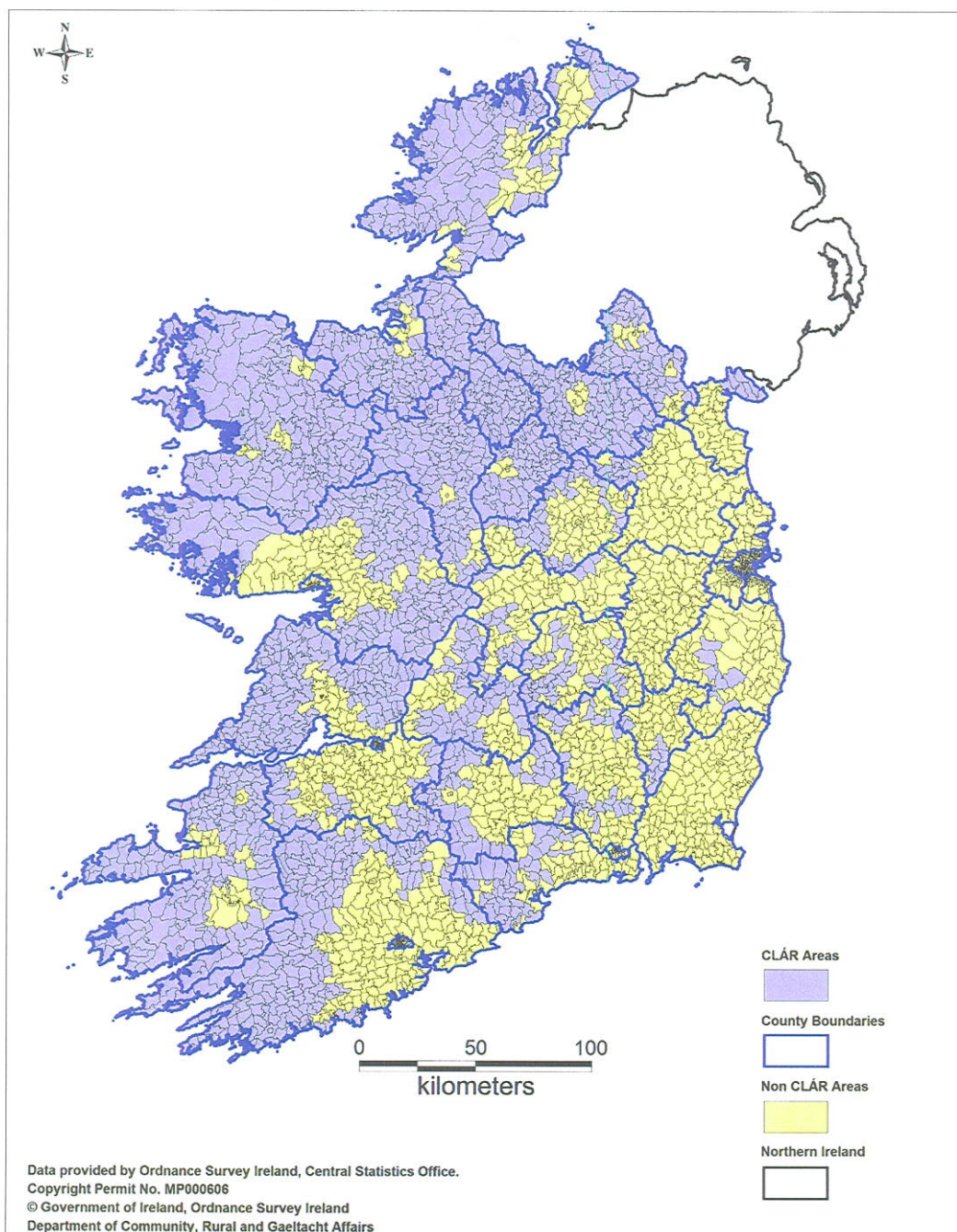
Sub head	Expenditure in 2009	
	Service	Outturn
		€000
	Administration	
A.1.	Salaries, Wages and Allowances	14,514
A.2.	Travel and Subsistence	457
A.3.	Incidental Expenses	644
A.4.	Postal and Telecommunications Services	429
A.5.	Office Machinery and Other Office Supplies and Related Services	992
A.6.	Office Premises Expenses	291
A.7.	Consultancy Services	135
A.8.	Value for Money and Policy Reviews	3
	Developing Communities	
B.1.	Supports for Community and Voluntary Sector (Part funded by National Lottery)	15,836
B.2.	Community Services Programme	50,394
B.3.	Local and Community Development Programmes (Part funded by National Lottery)	73,393
B.4.	Charities Regulation	181
B.5.	RAPID	10,406
B.6.	Dormant Accounts - Administration	1,717
B.7.	Initiatives Tackling Economic and Social Disadvantage (Dormant Accounts Funded)	8,916
	Tackling Drugs Misuse	
C.	Drugs Initiative	39,377
	Rural Development	

D.1.	Western Development Commission	2,158
D.2.	Western Investment Fund	2,300
D.3.	Rural Recreation and Rural Development Schemes	5,335
D.4.	Rural Social Scheme	48,344
D.5.	LEADER – Rural Economy Sub-Programme 2007-2013	20,943
D.6.	Ceantair Laga Ard-Riachtanais (CLÁR)	13,598
	Gaeltacht and Islands Development	
E.1.	Gaeltacht Housing – Grants under the Housing (Gaeltacht) Acts 1929 to 2001	4,954
E.2.	Gaeltacht Cultural and Social Schemes	9,900
E.3.	Gaeltacht Community and Recreational Facilities	4,660
E.4.	Gaeltacht Improvement Schemes	4,200
E.5.	Islands – Transport and Other Services	5,664
E.6.	Islands – Infrastructure	19,732
E.7.	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Administration	11,800
E.8.	Údarás na Gaeltachta - Current Programme Expenditure	4,185
E.9.	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Grants for Projects and Capital Expenditure on Premises	21,650
E.10.	Údarás na Gaeltachta - Election	0
	Promotion and Maintenance of the Irish Language	
F.1.	Payments to Ciste na Gaeilge (Part funded by National Lottery)	5,837
F.2.	An Coimisinéir Teanga	831
F.3.	Advanced Irish Language Skills Initiative	2,234
	North-South Co-Operation	
G.1.	An Foras Teanga	16,216
G.2.	Waterways Ireland	34,504
G.3.	Programme for Peace and Reconciliation/INTERREG	1,956
	Gross Total	458,686

Appendix 4:

CLÁR Areas

Republic of Ireland CLÁR Areas, 2008



An Roinn Gaíthí Pobail, Tuaithe
agus Gaeltachta
Department of Community, Rural
and Gaeltacht Affairs

NIRSA
National Institute for Research and Social Analysis
An Institiú Náisiúnta do Rannaireacht agus Saineolas

NOG

Appendix 5:

RAPID Areas

