An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications Research and Innovation Survey — Public Consultation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Research and Innovation Strategy — Public Consultation

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has set out a vision of a climate neutral, sustainable, and digitally connected Ireland. This will involve leading ambitious climate and environment action across Government and society together with a fundamental shift in sustainable resource use and a transformation of our energy system while at the same time delivering world-class connectivity and cyber security. The Department has identified research and innovation as important enablers of its goals, and is one of a group of five Government Departments which invest significantly in research and innovation. Impact 2030, the national research and innovation strategy, outlines a strong role for the Department in delivering on Strategic Objectives in Climate, Environment and Sustainability (including Energy), and in Digital Transformation (including cyber security). During 2023, the Department is now developing its inaugural Research and Innovation Strategy.

Please complete this survey by 5:30 pm on Friday 11th August.

Note 1: There are no mandatory consultation questions. Fields can be left blank if you do not wish to answer a particular question.

Note 2: Responses to each of the consultation questions is limited to 2000 characters.

Note 3: Copying and pasting text into the boxes directly from Microsoft Word may cause user experience issues. To avoid this, it is recommended to 'paste as plain text'.

Note 4: You can download a PDF copy of your completed survey after you have submitted it.

* Please enter your name

Text of 5 to 200 characters will be accepted

[REDACTED]

* Please enter your email address

[REDACTED]

* Please enter your occupation

[REDACTED]

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please enter the name of that organisation.

200 character(s) maximum

The Digital Hub Development Agency

Job Title (if applicable)

[REDACTED]

What gaps do you see in the Department's current research and innovation activities? How should we address those gaps in the Department Research and Innovation Strategy?

2000 character(s) maximum

What actions can the Department take to identify future trends in the areas under our remit?

2000 character(s) maximum

The department has a significant number of agencies and bodies under its remit. The DHDA is among a number to have direct access to a range of individuals, companies, organisations, and institutions who are developing and implementing disruptive technologies. Leveraging the agencies as pilot locations, the department has the ability to test and develop mainstream models for innovations in climate, environment and sustainability, and in Digital Transformation.

As a direct example, at The Digital Hub there is the possibility to:
a. pilot building retrofit and solar energy technologies which could provide a model for public building across the country,
b. provide a direct outreach to citizens on ethical questions around AI through our learning programme and showcase activities,
c. develop knowledge and skills in small business and end users in cyber security through our extensive ecosystem,
d. use design-based approaches to improve public services with the NCAD/DHDA design Lab, and
e. further support researchers developing 6G and Quantum technology with real world use cases already underway with SFI support.

Are there specific thematic areas relevant to the Department's remit which you would like to see more research and innovation activity in? How can this be achieved?

2000 character(s) maximum

More research and innovation activity in the following four areas:
1. How best to transition of public sector owned lands and buildings to a low carbon model,
2. Importance of the role of societal champion in delivering impact from research and innovation,
3. A design led approach involving end users into the provision of digital enabled public services, and
4. Supporting the outreach to the general public enhancing knowledge and understand of cyber security.

This could be achieved through a combination of actions:
a. cofounding of projects with specific focus on developing establish best practice,
b. collaboration with existing funding bodies to embed these priorities into funding calls,
c. supporting pilot projects with the potential to scale and
d. expanding the remit of agencies to support these aims.

Have you views on the impact of disruptive technologies such as AI, Quantum and 6G as part of the digital transformation agenda and the implications of these technologies for the Department?

2000 character(s) maximum

The progression of digital technology and content formats is developing at an increasing rate. As more and more global investment is focused on disruptive technology, innovations in AI, AR, 6G and Quantum will grow rapidly and serve to disrupt existing individuals, society and the economy.

The department has a role to play in managing how Ireland plays a role in defining the direction of the development of these disruptive technologies from an ethical, regulatory perspective. The technology, specifically its design purpose, deployment, control and management together with the resulting content and its audience all need to be considered. This can only be achieved through international collaboration.

The department strategy must take into account of Irelands ability to act as a producer/ coproducer of disruptive technology as well a consumer. Having a strategic capability in the development of AI, AR/VR, 6G and Quantum etc. will be key to sustaining inward foreign investment and the general competitiveness of the economy.

Being home to the deployment of these technologies can allow Ireland to leverage its green power resources and to add value to provision of disruptive service for a global customer base.

How can the Department better communicate its research and innovation needs?

2000 character(s) maximum

How can the Department work more effectively to source evidence from the national research and innovation community to support its work in policy development, policy implementation, and the uptake of new technologies?

2000 character(s) maximum

How can the Department engage more effectively with all stakeholders in the national research and innovation system? If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please state how the Department could more effectively engage with your organisation.

2000 character(s) maximum

Should the Department seek to grow its capacity to carry out in-house research? If yes, how can this be achieved?

2000 character(s) maximum

Are there examples internationally of Government strategies on research and innovation in climate, communications / digital, circular economy, cyber security, energy or environment that we should examine? If so, can you provide details?

2000 character(s) maximum

Are there any other matters you wish to raise in relation to the development of the research and innovation strategy?

2000 character(s) maximum

Contact

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