Roinn Cumarsáide,
Fuinnimh & Acmhainní Nádúrtha
Department of Communications,
Energy & Natural Resources

ANNUAL REPORT
2014

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Roinn Cumarsáide,
Fuinnimh & Acmhainní Nádúrtha
Department of Communications,
Energy & Natural Resources

Department's Mission Statement

To promote the development of communications and energy infrastructure and markets that contribute to sustainable economic development, to promote the development of the public and private broadcasting sectors, to harness our natural resources in a productive and environmentally responsible manner and to work as a Department in the most productive way.

**Roinn Cumarsáide,
Fuinnimh & Acmhainní Nádúrtha**
Department of Communications,
Energy & Natural Resources

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Ministerial Foreword

I welcome the publication of this report which sets out the activities and achievements of my Department in 2014 in delivering on the high level goals in the Department's Statement of Strategy for the period 2011 to 2014, the relevant commitments in the Programme for Government and the Statement of Government Priorities.

It was a great privilege to be appointed as Minister in July 2014 to a Department that is at the cutting edge in a range of economic and social sectors.

2014 saw significant progress made by the private sector in bringing high speed broadband services to towns and villages around Ireland. The original targeted private sector rollout under the National Broadband Plan of 1m premises to be passed by end 2015 will now be exceeded with 1.2 million premises already passed and 1.6 million to be passed by end 2016.

Work on the State led intervention was also substantially progressed last year with a national High-Speed coverage Map published for public consultation in November. On the back of the progress made in 2014, the Department will submit a comprehensive intervention strategy to Government in mid-2015.

All post-primary schools now have high speed broadband connectivity with the completion of the national rollout of the 100Mbps Schools Broadband project. In all, almost 800 post-primary schools and Educational Centres have been connected to high speed broadband services under the project.

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme was launched nationally in July 2014 and aims to get 2,000 small and micro enterprises trading online by the end of 2015, as well as catalysing action from other small and medium sized enterprises. Some 550 small businesses had been awarded vouchers to invest in developing their online trading capabilities by the end of 2014. The results, in terms of business growth and job creation potential, are already evident.

A Green Paper on Energy Policy in Ireland was published in May 2014. Over 1,200 submissions were received, showing the high level of interest by stakeholders in developing the new policy. A White Paper on Energy Policy will be published later in 2015. The Sale of non-strategic generation capacity by ESB under the State Assets Disposal Programme was completed which, together with the sale of Bord Gáis Energy, yielded significant funds to the State for reinvestment in critical public capital programmes.

In the sustainable energy area, over 22,000 homes benefitted from energy efficiency upgrades and 273 MW of renewable electricity capacity was installed during the year. The Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) was completed in February 2014 and provides a framework for the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy in Ireland. A Draft Bioenergy Plan was published in October 2014 which identifies the opportunity, at a national level, for the sustainable development of Ireland's biomass resources.

A review of the post office network was initiated in 2014 and in December a Post Office Network Business Development Group was announced. The design for the National Postcode System and the brand Eircode was approved by Government in April, 2014.

In June the Government announced the revision of Ireland's oil and gas fiscal terms to increase the maximum tax 'take' to 55% and introduced a minimum tax level for all fields that go into production. This also marked the formal opening of Ireland's 2015 Atlantic licensing round, continuing the offer of licensing options and introducing innovative changes in terms of different exploration areas.

Ireland continued to be Europe's largest Zinc producer with mining output (principally lead and zinc) valued at €417 million and an active exploration programme involving over 600 exploration licences. The Geological Survey of Ireland mapped over 3,000Km^2 under the National Seabed Mapping project (INFOMAR) and continued to expand the Tellus geochemical soil sampling and geophysical programme.

Inland Fisheries Ireland continued to support Ireland's multi-million angling sector and tourism products across 77,000Kms of rivers and streams and 240,000 km^2 of inland lakes.

I wish to thank the staff of the Department for their commitment and efforts throughout 2014 which saw excellent progress made in all areas of the Department's brief.

I will continue to work with my colleague Minister of State Joe McHugh TD to deliver on the Government's commitments and to build and deepen the ongoing economic recovery.

Alex White, T.D.

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

Secretary General's Statement

This Annual Report is the final annual report under the Department's Statement of Strategy for the period 2011-2014 and details the good progress delivered across the sectors for which the Department is responsible. The report provides a summary of the key outputs in 2014 along with highlights of the programmes under each of the high level objectives in the Statement of Strategy which contribute to the overall delivery of key commitments in the Programme for Government and Statement of Government Priorities.

A new Statement of Strategy for the Department, covering the period 2015-2017, was approved by the Government in February**.**

The Department completed a capacity review in 2014 which looked at how we are set up and resourced to carry out our business. The review was conducted in close collaboration with staff and we are now engaged in implementing an action plan prepared on foot of the review. The changes being introduced in the Department are set within a broader change agenda for the Civil Service outlined in the Civil Service Renewal Plan published in October 2014.

I would like to express my appreciation for the excellent working relationships with the Department's agencies and State companies, who play a major role in delivering in key strategic and policy areas.

I look forward to working with our staff, agencies and stakeholders in advancing the key priorities set out in our new Statement of Strategy.

I would like to express my appreciation for the on-going support which the Department receives from Minister Alex White T.D. and Minister of State, Joe McHugh T.D.

Mark Griffin
Secretary General

Departmental Key Outputs in 2014

Communications

- Broadband market penetration showed a 0.2% increase over 2013, reaching 1.7 million subscribers by year end. Ireland's household broadband penetration rate (fixed + mobile), at 80%, was higher than the EU28 average at the end of 2014.Commercial telecommunications providers continued to invest in Next Generation Access (NGA) services with some €2.5 billion being spent on modernising telecoms networks and services in an increasing number of largely urban areas. As a result, some 1.6 million premises will have access to commercial NGA services by the end of 2016.

- The Department continues to progress work on the Government's National Broadband Plan. This will involve a State-funded intervention to ensure those parts of the country which are not covered by the commercial investment mentioned above will also have access to a modern, reliable and high-speed broadband service. A national High-Speed coverage Map was published for public consultation in November 2014. The Department is developing a comprehensive intervention strategy which will be submitted to Government in mid-2015. This will be followed by a period of public consultation before moving to the formal procurement phase later in 2015 for a bidder or bidders to build and operate the new network.

- The Department also undertook a review of National Spectrum Policy (as committed to in the 2012 National Broadband Plan). The new Strategy will be published by mid-2015.

- All post-primary schools now have high speed broadband connectivity with the completion of the national rollout of the 100Mbps Schools Broadband project in 2014. In all, 779 post-primary schools, together with 20 Educational Centres, have been connected to high speed broadband services.

- The Trading Online Voucher Scheme was launched nationally in July 2014 and aims to get 2,000 small and micro enterprises trading online by the end of 2015, as well as catalysing action from other small and medium sized enterprises. Some 550 small businesses had been awarded vouchers to invest in developing their online trading capabilities by the end of 2014.

- The BenefIT Programme was expanded with the addition of 30 new projects providing digital skills training to citizens at over 700 locations nationwide. By the end of 2014, some 114,000 training places had been delivered under the Programme.

- The National Digital Research Centre developed 22 LaunchPad digital accelerator projects to start-up stage and had 9 science-based VentureLab projects under development in 2014. The Digital Hub Development Agency provided office space and enterprise supports for 89 digital companies (representing a 90% occupancy rate), employing 980 people.

- The Department's Cyber Security Unit, the Computer Security Incident Response Team, issued several security advisories to Government Departments and Key Agencies in regard to cyber incidents.

- The Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014 establishing the new media mergers regulatory process was brought into law bringing new powers and responsibilities to the Department and Minister.

- Media Merger Guidelines and Notification Form were published in draft form for public consultation.

- The Internet Content Governance Advisory Group published its report in May 2014 with important recommendations for improving online safety.

Broadcasting/Postal

- A total of €178.828 million was contributed through TV licence fee receipts to RTÉ to fund programme outputs.

- A total of €23.505 million of exchequer funding and TV licence fee funding of €9.245 million was provided to TG4 to deliver on programme commitments including 4.99 hours of Irish language programming per day.

- €14.156 million in grants was provided from TV licence fee funding to the Broadcasting Fund and used to support circa 270 projects in the audio and audio-visual media sector.

- Government approval was received to introduce legislation to provide for access by the Minister's TV Licence Collection Agent (currently An Post) to subscription data held by TV service providers to assist in reducing TV licence evasion.

- An initial public consultation on sporting and cultural events suitable for listing as events of major importance for 'free to air' broadcasting was held in the second half of 2014.

- The UTV Ireland television service was designated as being of public service character, thereby enabling it to apply for carriage on the SAORVIEW DTT service. UTV commenced broadcasting in January 2015.

- The Department continued to work with An Post in 2014 to ensure effective corporate governance was in place particularly in light of the economic challenges being experienced by the company as well as challenges specific to the postal sector.

- A review of the post office network was initiated in 2014 and in December the formation of a Post Office Network Business Development Group, under an independent Chairperson, was announced.

- The design for the National Postcode System and the brand Eircode was approved by Government in April, 2014. The public awareness campaign began with the launch of the website www.eircode.ie.

Energy

- A Green Paper on Energy Policy in Ireland was published in May 2014 which initiated the first major review of Energy policy in Ireland since the last White Paper on Energy, 'Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland' was published in 2007. Some 1,240 submissions were received as part of the consultation process on the Green Paper. A White Paper on Energy Policy will be published later in 2015.

- 9,056 homes were upgraded under the Better Energy Warmer Homes at a cost of almost €20.7 million.

- 42 projects were completed under the Better Energy Area Based Programme, delivering energy upgrades to 3,209 homes at a cost of just over €9 million.

- 9,927 homes were grant aided under the Better Energy Homes scheme at a cost of €9.9 million.

- 58 projects were fully completed by year end under the Better Energy Communities scheme at a cost of €14.6 million.

- The €35 million Energy Efficiency Fund was launched with a capital injection of €17.2 million from the Irish Government and private funding totalling €17.8 million.

- 273 MW of renewable electricity capacity was installed during the year. A total of 167 million litres of sustainable biofuels were placed on the road transport fuel market and 257 new electric vehicles were grant aided in 2014.

- Sale of non-strategic generation capacity by ESB under the State Assets Disposal Programme was completed in 2014, with final payment in January 2015 by the company of remainder of the €400 million in special dividends sought under the Programme.

- In June 2014, following an extensive sale process, the sale of Ervia's (formerly Bord Gáis Éireann) energy business (Bord Gáis Energy) was completed for a total enterprise value, inclusive of debt, of €1.1 billion.

- The Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) was launched in February 2014 providing a framework for the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy in Ireland.

- A Draft Bioenergy Plan was published in October 2014 which identifies the opportunity, at a national level, for the sustainable development of Ireland's biomass resources.

Natural Resources

- 2014 saw many of the remaining petroleum licensing options issued under the 2011 Atlantic Margin Licensing Round convert to full exploration licences and at year end, there were 65 active petroleum authorisations in place as follows: 3 Petroleum leases, 30 Exploration Licences, 18 Licensing Options and 14 Petroleum Prospecting Licences active. Overall, exploration authorisations are now at an all-time high.

- In June 2014 Government announced:

    o The revision of Ireland's oil and gas fiscal terms to increase the maximum tax 'take' to 55% and introduced a minimum tax level for all fields that go into production;

    o The formal opening of Ireland's 2015 Atlantic licensing round, continuing the offer of licensing options and introducing innovative changes in terms of different areas.

- Ireland continued to be Europe's largest Zinc producer with mining output (lead and zinc) valued at €417 million and an active exploration programme involving over 600 exploration licences.

- Remediating historic mine site legacy issues continued through 2014 at Silvermines and Avoca, with the commencement of a programme of priority public health and safety works at Avoca.

- Key outputs for the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) in 2014 included mapping over 3,000Km^2 under the National Seabed Mapping project (INFOMAR), completion of the Tellus geochemical soil sampling and geophysical programme over the North Midlands area (Longford, Westmeath & Roscommon) and pilot programmes for new initiatives in Groundwater and integrated land mapping. The GSI's extensive database of Ireland's geology remains available free of charge on the GSI website- WWW.GSI.ie

- In October, Science Foundation Ireland announced significant new Government commitment to the Geoscience's in Ireland with third level institutes and the Geoscience industries securing funding of €30 million for the Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences (iCRAG).

- Inland Fisheries Ireland continued to support Ireland's multi-million angling sector and tourism products across 77,000Kms of rivers and streams and 240,000 sq Km of inland lakes, through monitoring and protection measures and in supporting local and international competitions such as World Feeder Fishing Championships attracting almost 200 competitors and officials from 25 nations at the Greenway facilities at Coachford, County Cork.

High Level Goal - Communications

Contribute to sustainable economic growth, jobs, competitiveness and social inclusion by: facilitating and promoting timely investment in Next Generation Broadband networks; enhanced internet engagement by citizens and business; and supporting job creation, business development and innovation, especially in the digital media sector.

In the Communications area, the Department supports economic growth, jobs, competitiveness and social inclusion through a range of policies and regulation designed to facilitate a more digitally connected society. This includes plans to ensure that high quality broadband is available to all citizens through a combination of commercial and State investment, promoting the use of digital technologies by citizens and businesses, and through support for digital entrepreneurship.

National Broadband Plan

The National Broadband Plan aims to ensure that every citizen and business, regardless of location, has access to a high quality, high speed broadband service. This is being achieved through a partnership between Government and commercial telecommunications companies.

The commercial telecommunications sector is currently investing approximately €2.5 billion in network upgrades and enhanced services with approximately 1.6 million of the 2.3 million premises in Ireland expected to have access to commercial high speed broadband services over the next two years. These very significant investments represent a step-change in the quality of broadband services available.

Eircom is rolling out its eFibre programme with the intention of passing up to 1.6 million premises, providing speeds of up to 100Mbps. In addition, the company has announced its intention to provide fibre-to-the-home services in some 66 towns nationwide from 2015.

Following enactment by the Oireachtas of legislation to enable ESB to enter the telecommunications market either alone or in partnership with another operator, the company announced its intention to establish a Joint Venture company with Vodafone (following an open procurement process).

The JV is bringing forward proposals for a wholesale open-access fibre network, offering fibre to the premises. Phase 1 of the roll-out will cover some 50 towns across the country. A further roll-out phase is expected to follow. Enabling ESB to use its extensive electricity distribution network to

provide fibre-to-the-home products will help the roll-out of high speed broadband as well as facilitating greater competition in the Irish market.

A national High-Speed Coverage map was published by the Department in November 2014. This followed a lengthy and intensive interaction with industry and maps current plus planned national NGA coverage out to end-2016. Those areas with both existing and planned NGA services are marked Blue on the map with the rest of the country coloured Amber. The Amber part of the map represents the intervention area under the NBP.

Following a lengthy and detailed investigation by DG Competition, Hutchison 3G Ireland was given clearance to purchase Telefonica's Irish business, O2 Ireland. The 3 mobile operators continued to roll out 4G services across the country and also invested in enhancing the quality and coverage of 3G services.

Following ComReg's 2012 multi-band spectrum auction, mobile operators have embarked on significant upgrades of their 3G networks and introduced 4G services. By June 2015, at least one operator will already have achieved 94% population coverage with 4G. As part of the commitments contained in the 2012 National Broadband Plan, the Department undertook a review of national spectrum policy, including a public consultation. It is expected that a revised national policy document will be issued in mid-2015.

Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs)

The State-owned Metropolitan Area Networks, which are located in 94 regional cities and towns, have played an important role in driving competition in the regions and have facilitated telecommunications operators, large and small, in providing high speed broadband services without having to build their own networks.

The Department continued to oversee the activities of enet, the Management Services Entity which manages, maintains and operates the MANs on behalf of the State. At the end of 2014, 85 of the 88 MANs were "lit" and in use by some 60 commercial operators enabling the provision of telecommunications and broadband services to customers over the fibre network. These end customers include large indigenous companies, multinationals, SMEs, State entities, educational institutions, as well as fixed and mobile broadband customers outside Dublin.

National Broadband Scheme (NBS)

The National Broadband Scheme (NBS) expired on the 25th August 2014 after a 68 month operational period, in line with EU clearance for the intervention. The Scheme facilitated the availability of basic, affordable broadband to some 239,000 premises, located in 1,028 Electoral Divisions across 25 Counties. Following expiry of the Scheme, services continue to be offered on a commercial basis.

Combined with private investment, the NBS allowed Ireland to meet the EU Commission's "Digital Agenda for Europe" target of having a basic broadband service available to all areas by 2013.

100Mbps to Schools

The national rollout of 100Mbps broadband connectivity to all post-primary schools in Ireland, through a project funded jointly by the Department and the Department of Education and Skills, concluded in 2014. Under the third and final phase of the national rollout, 269 schools located in Counties Carlow, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow received high speed connectivity during the year. In all, 779 post-primary schools, together with 20 Educational Centres, have been connected to high speed broadband services.

The ESRI's research programme to benchmark educational outcomes from the effective use of technology in post-primary schools continued in 2014, with initial findings expected in 2015.

National Digital Strategy

The Department continued to promote digital adoption and implement initiatives under the National Digital Strategy in three key areas - enterprise, citizens and education.

Trading Online

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme was launched nationally in July 2014. With up to 70% of Ireland's annual online spend currently going overseas, targeting Irish businesses for online trading is a key jobs and economic imperative. Working in partnership with Enterprise Ireland and the 31 Local Enterprise Offices, the Scheme aims to get 2,000 small and micro enterprises trading online by the end of 2015, as well as catalysing action from other small and medium sized enterprises.

By the end of 2014, some 550 businesses had been awarded vouchers of up to €2,500 to invest in developing their online trading capability. Early indications are that companies have experienced more sales and are expecting to recruit as a result. The rollout of vouchers and evaluation of outcomes will continue in 2015.

Citizen Skills & Engagement

The BenefIT Programme continued to grant aid community and voluntary organisations to provide digital skills training to help citizens get online and access the social and economic benefits of the digital world. Since the programme began in 2008, some 114,000 training places have been delivered, including 25,000 during 2014. The range and impact of BenefIT was expanded in late 2014 with the addition of 30 new projects, reaching further into the community. More than 30,000 training places will be provided to citizens in 2015, at 700 locations nationwide.

The Department continued to work with Ireland's Digital Champion, David Puttnam and other stakeholders to raise awareness and help motivate more people to get online. The combined efforts are paying dividends with CSO statistics published in December 2014 showing the number of people who have never used the internet now reduced to 1 in 6 from 1 in 5.

Schools Broadband

Building on its investment in high speed broadband connectivity, the Department, in partnership with the Department of Education and Skills, developed and ran a pilot outreach programme in 2014 to support post-primary level schools in doing more with digital in the classroom. The "Switch On" workshops received a positive response from teachers and this content has now been incorporated into other professional development opportunities for teachers.

Digital Entrepreneurship

The Department continued to support a growing and vibrant digital start-up community in Ireland through both the National Digital Research Centre and the Digital Hub Development Agency.

National Digital Research Centre (NDRC)

The National Digital Research Centre (NDRC) continued to fund digital innovation initiatives and facilitate the creation of new ventures through its two principal investment and support programmes:

- **VentureLab:** a 6 month programme to develop science and technology projects from the research sector to commercial ventures;

- **LaunchPad**: a 3 month accelerator programme for small teams of digital entrepreneurs to develop their ideas to commercial start-up stage.

During 2014, the NDRC developed 22 LaunchPad digital accelerator projects to start-up stage and had 9 science-based VentureLab projects under development. By the end of 2014, companies in NDRC's portfolio had created more than 380 high value jobs and 120 part time jobs in Ireland, and had attracted cumulative follow-on investment of €88 million, with an estimated market capital value of €220 million.

Digital Hub Development Agency (DHDA)

The Digital Hub Development Agency continued to provide flexible office space solutions and supports for emerging digital enterprises at the Digital Hub cluster. Arrangements for the merger of the Agency with Dublin City Council under the Government's Agency Rationalisation Programme were progressed during 2014. A new strategy and financial model was developed and will underpin its establishment as an independent Digital Hub company under Dublin City Council, as approved by Government in January 2015.

At end 2014, 89 digital companies (representing a 90% occupancy rate), employing 980 people, were located in the Digital Hub cluster and continued to benefit from interaction with similar

enterprises. To date, more than 200 companies have passed through the Digital Hub. The launch of the Knightsbridge development and commencement of refurbishment works at a further derelict building on its campus will result in the significant expansion of the available office space for digital companies. These developments will also bring new activity into the Dublin 8 area, contributing to general regeneration objectives.

Cyber Security

The Department, through the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), further developed its capabilities in the cyber security area. A table top exercise was undertaken in conjunction with select energy and telecommunications stakeholders with a view to improving crisis response arrangements. The Computer Security Incident Response Team issued several security advisories to Government Departments and Key Agencies in regard to cyber incidents.

The Department also engaged in EU deliberations on the proposed Network and Information Security Directive. The proposed Directive will require a minimum set of capabilities in the State, engagement in formal EU co-operation arrangements and with critical infrastructure operators in the energy, transport, finance and health sectors to manage security risks and to report serious incidents.

Internet Governance

The Department engaged in pan-European dialogue on issues of internet governance participating in the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) where we exchanged views and best practices on issues to be discussed at Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meetings, and raised awareness about the relevance of issues discussed in the IGF context and the value of the new multi-stakeholder discussion format developed by and around the IGF.

Department officials participated in the European Commission's High Level Group on Internet Governance (HLIG) and attended meetings of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Government Advisory Committee (GAC) engaging with and contributing to the development of proposals for the transfer of stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions and the creation of enhanced accountability measures for ICANN.

Internet Content Governance

The Internet Content Governance Advisory Group (ICGAG) was formed in December 2013. The Group conducted a public consultation on the issues arising from widespread access to online content and its impact on society as a whole; this consultation ran between 28th January and 18th March 2014.

The Report of the ICGAG was submitted to the Minister on 30th May. It contains 30 structural, legislative and administrative recommendations, the responsibility for which fall across a number of Government Departments.

Following the publication of the ICGAG Report, a cross departmental implementation group was established, chaired by the Department and comprising representatives from the Department of

Health, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Department of Justice (Office of Internet Safety) and the Department of Education.

Media Mergers Regulation

The media mergers function is contained in the Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014. This Act enhanced the regulatory powers and responsibilities surrounding Media Mergers and transferred these to the Minister with effect from October 2014. Media Merger Guidelines and the associated

Media Merger Notification Form were developed by the department and published in draft form in December 2014 for public consultation.

![Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources logo](Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh & Acmhainní Nádúrtha / Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources)
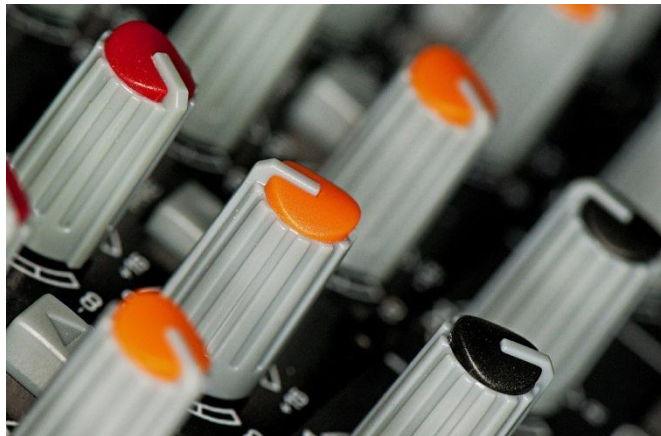
High Level Goal - Broadcasting/Postal

To promote a vibrant broadcasting sector, the provision of value for money and high quality output by the State Broadcasting Companies, a strong high quality private broadcasting sector, development of media policy generally and to ensure that an appropriate regulatory framework is in place to achieve this.

To ensure Irish customers, both business and residential, enjoy competitively priced, high quality postal services on a par with the highest quality standards in key comparator EU economies.

Funding of Public Service Broadcasting

The Department received Government approval in July 2014 for access by the TV Licence Collection Agent to subscription data of television service providers to assist in the reduction of TV licence evasion. The necessary legislation is being developed.

The Department also commenced work on improving the current TV Licence database, which involves improving the functionality of the database and its ability to easily incorporate data from other databases.

Designation of Major Events

Under the Audio-visual Media Services (AVMS) Directive, Member States are allowed to designate certain sporting and cultural events as being of major importance to society and to provide that events so designated should continue to be available on free television services.

Part 11 of the Broadcasting Act 2009 sets out the provisions relating to the designation of events in Ireland and these require, inter alia, that a review process is undertaken every three years.

The Department held an initial public consultation on sporting and cultural events suitable for designation as events of major importance for broadcasting on a 'free to air' basis. This was announced by way of a press release and notice in the national daily papers in June 2014 and the period of consultation ran until August 2014.

In total, 44 submissions were received from stakeholders and the general public.

UTV Ireland Designation

The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) signed a content provision contract with UTV Ireland Limited under section 71 of the Broadcasting Act 2009 in February 2014. Contracts granted by the

BAI under section 71 are for content only and do not carry an automatic right to carriage on a platform.

Section 130 of the Broadcasting Act 2009 provides for the carriage on the RTÉ SAORVIEW (DTT) service of RTÉ One, RTÉ Two, TV3, 3e, TG4, the Houses of the Oireachtas Channel and the Irish Film Channel (where required by the Minister) and, under section 130(1)(a)(iv), 'such other television services, having the character of a public service, as may be designated by the Minister'.

In June 2014, UTV Ireland wrote to the Minister requesting that they be formally designated under section 130(1)(a)(iv), which would allow them apply for carriage on the SAORVIEW DTT service.

As the UTV Ireland request for designation was the first such request received under section 130(1)(a)(iv) since the enactment of the Broadcasting Act 2009, a number of preliminary steps were undertaken by the Department in advance of undertaking a detailed consideration of the UTV Ireland request. These steps included establishing a framework under which such a request for designation might be considered.

In December 2014, the Minister signed an order designating UTV Ireland as 'a television service having the character of a public service' under S. 130(1)(a)(iv) of the Broadcasting Act 2009. The new service commenced broadcasting on 1 January 2015.

RTÉ

The Department continued to work with RTÉ in the context of the challenging financial environment faced by the company and to ensure that effective corporate governance was in place.

The Department assisted RTÉ with the introduction of a number of new initiatives in 2014:

- The GAAGO online service, which launched in 2014, brought live Championship games to 128 countries.
- The introduction of an International version of the RTÉ Player.

Seven members to the new Board of RTÉ were appointed in November 2014.

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland 5 Year Review

Following the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland's 5 Year Review of the adequacy of funding of the public service broadcasters (RTÉ and TG4), the Department received NewERA's review of efficiencies in RTÉ and the Indecon review of the Irish advertising market in 2014.

The Department examined the findings and recommendations in both reports in preparation for publication by the Minister in 2015.

The Department continued to review existing broadcasting legislation with a view to identifying the legislative changes required as a consequence of the BAI review and of the developing situation with regard to commercial and community broadcasting.

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI)

Sound and Vision

Under Section 158 of the Broadcasting Act 2009, the BAI operate the Sound and Vision Scheme which supports the production and transmission of high quality programming based on Irish culture and heritage. The fund is allocated through television licence fee receipts.

Sound and Vision II ran from 2012 to 2014 and provided funding of over €70 million for circa 1,500 TV and radio projects.

Prior to the scheme's expiration at the end of 2014, the Department received a proposal from the BAI for a new scheme (Sound and Vision III) and this subsequently received approval to operate from January 2015.

Archiving Scheme

The Archiving Scheme is also funded through television licence fee receipts. The scheme provides funding support for the development of an archiving culture in the Irish broadcasting sector which will contribute to the preservation of broadcasting heritage.

The Scheme launched in 2012 and implementation commenced with funding in 2013. A second funding round was held in 2014. Across the two rounds, 48 applications were received and after assessment, €3.77 million was awarded to support 17 projects.

The BAI requested that the Department extend the Scheme until 2016 and approval for this request was granted in July 2014.

Access Rules

The BAI Access Rules determine the levels of subtitling, sign language and audio description that broadcasters in Ireland are required to provide in accordance with their statutory obligations. Under the Broadcasting Act 2009, a review of these rules is required every two years.

The Department received this review in the second half of 2014 for analysis and consideration prior to the report being laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas in early 2015.

Postcodes

The Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources signed the contract with Capita Business Support Services Ireland in December 2013 to design, build, operate and maintain the national postcode system under licence for a ten year period, extendable by a further five years at the discretion of the Minister.

The design for the National Postcode System and the 'Eircode' brand was approved by Government in April. The public awareness campaign began in April with the launch of the website www.eircode.ie . The website contains information on Eircodes for both residents and businesses.

In order to support the dissemination of Eircodes post launch, the databases of the large public sector bodies will be Eircode enabled. The work on the preparation of these public sector databases to receive Eircodes was completed in December 2014.

The project is currently in the implementation phase and is scheduled to be rolled out nationwide in the middle of 2015.

An Post

The Department continued to work with An Post in 2014 to ensure that effective corporate governance was in place. It engaged regularly with the company in relation to its financial position and the implementation of its change programme. The decline in mail volumes due mainly to economic factors together with the steady increase in electronic substitution pose significant challenges which continue to impact on the company. Managing reductions in costs and efforts to diversify its income streams are key drivers for An Post as it seeks to compete effectively and remain the operator of choice in the postal market. A review of the post office network, under the auspices of the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy, was initiated in 2014 and in December the formation of a Post Office Network Business Development Group, under an independent Chairperson, was announced. The Group will examine the potential and opportunities for new Government and commercial business that could be transacted through the post office network.

Comreg

The Department continued to engage with the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) during 2014, in relation to ComReg's role as the national regulatory authority for the postal sector and its obligations under the Communications Regulation (Postal Services) Act, 2011. In 2014, ComReg approved a mails price cap mechanism and in July An Post increased the price of a domestic stamp from 60 cents to 68 cents.

High Level Goal - Energy

To ensure security, continuity and competitiveness of energy supply for the economy and for consumers, and to promote the sustainability of energy supply and demand.

Green Paper on Energy Policy

A new Energy Policy Paper, which will set out Ireland's energy policy up to 2030, is being developed. To facilitate the development of the new Policy Paper, a Green Paper on Energy Policy in Ireland was published in May 2014 opening a written public consultation process that concluded on 31 July 2014. The Green Paper sets out six policy priority areas in respect of which submissions were sought. Over 1,200 submissions were received in the written consultation process. In addition, there was a targeted stakeholder consultation process involving 11 seminars, six of which focused on the priorities identified in the Green Paper, four regional seminars and a seminar on energy costs. The Department is carrying out the detailed follow-on work needed to develop the new Policy Paper which will be published towards the end of 2015.

All Island Single Electricity Market (SEM) and EU Electricity Network Codes

All Island Single Electricity Market (SEM)

2014 saw continued efficient operation, in cooperation with the Regulators North and South, of the All Island Single Electricity Market (SEM), the all island wholesale electricity market. This ensured the continued provision of cost reflective wholesale electricity, competition, transparency, consumer choice, diversity of generation and increased renewable penetration, in the context of full implementation of the EU Energy Third Package.

Under the Third Energy Package, new electricity and gas network codes and guidelines are being developed at EU level, which aim to promote increased electricity and gas cross trading across Europe. The process of developing and adopting them as Commission Regulations requires agreement between all Member States at EU level operating under commitology rules. The Department participates fully in these developments and in the associated gas and electricity commitology process.

Having been involved in the detailed technical negotiations over the last two years on the electricity Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management (CACM) guideline, on 5 December 2014 this guideline was agreed by all Member States. This guideline will enter into force in 2015 and is the main EU electricity market code. Its provisions affect the all island wholesale electricity market significantly and it effectively provides that Ireland and Northern Ireland will implement it in respect

of the all island electricity market by a later deadline than other Member States, which is 31 December 2017. Compliance of the wholesale market with this code is being achieved by the Integrated Single Electricity Market Project (I-SEM) led by the regulators in Ireland and Northern Ireland. More generally, the I-SEM project will facilitate Ireland's effective participation in the EU Internal Energy Market. The publication of the High Level Design for the new market in September 2014 by the regulators marked a key milestone in this project. The project has now entered its final phase and the new market will "go-live" by Q4 2017.

EU Gas Network Codes

Throughout 2014 the Department also participated in discussions on various gas network codes under the separate gas commitology process. By end 2014 significant progress had been made in advancing the Network Code on Gas Tariffs while the Codes on gas balancing and interoperability were agreed by all Member States.

Emergency Planning

During 2014, the International Energy Agency (IEA) undertook a comprehensive review of Ireland's energy emergency response.

Security of gas and electricity supply is underpinned through the European Union (Security of Natural Gas Supply) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No 336 of 2013), which gave effect to EU Regulation 994/2010, concerning measures to safeguard security of gas supply. In 2014, the Commission for Energy Regulation, as Competent Authority with responsibility for ensuring compliance with and implementation of the measures under Regulation 994/2010, published a National Gas Supply Emergency Plan, a National Preventive Action Plan and a Joint Preventive Action Plan for the UK and Ireland.

A successful facilitated oil emergency exercise and workshop was held in the National Emergency Coordination Centre in November 2014 with other Government Departments and relevant public bodies, the National Oil Reserves Agency and oil companies.

Significant progress has been made by the National Oil Reserves Agency on the rebalancing of emergency oil stocks held on the island of Ireland to enhance security of supply. At the end of 2014 70% of stocks were held on the island of Ireland which represents a large increase on the corresponding figure of 46% in 2007.

Trans-European Energy Infrastructure

EU Regulation 347/2013, on "Guidelines for Trans-European Energy Infrastructure" entered into force in May 2013 following which a list of European Union Energy Infrastructure Projects, "Projects of Common Interest" (PCI) was adopted by the EU Commission in October 2013. Fifteen such projects, which would involve cross-border impacts between Ireland, the UK and France were selected for inclusion on the first PCI list. The selection process for the second PCI list commenced in 2014 and is due to be adopted by the EU Commission in late 2015.

Grid Development

2014 saw Eirgrid respond to public concerns expressed in relation to Grid25 projects. In December 2014, after a comprehensive review of its Public Consultation Process, Eirgrid announced details of its new approach to enhance future public engagement regarding Grid25 projects. The review confirmed EirGrid's intention to develop a participative, more community focussed approach to projects, developing stronger relationships with stakeholders and communities, and seeking support from the political system and public bodies to better explain energy issues and the benefits of a stronger electricity system.

In January 2014, an Independent Expert Panel was established by the Minister to oversee the integrity of the process being undertaken by EirGrid to report on comprehensive, route-specific studies of overhead and underground options for both the Grid Link and Grid West projects. The Panel also considered the methodologies employed by EirGrid in relation to the North South transmission line project and issued a statement in July 2014 indicating its unanimous opinion that, in all material respects, what had already been done on the North South project is compatible with the methodologies now being employed on the Grid West and Grid Link projects.

In May 2014, EirGrid initiated a further review of the Grid25 strategy to take into account the most up-to-date information available, including technical feasibility, future economic and demand projections, and environmental impacts. The outcome of this review, 'Your Grid, Your Views, Your Tomorrow', which, *inter alia*, reviews the Grid Link, Grid West, and North-South Interconnecting Line projects, was published for consultation in March 2015.

The North South project was designated a Project of Common Interest by the European Commission in October 2013 and in 2014, Eirgrid submitted a draft planning application file to An Bord Pleanála. It is expected that Eirgrid will proceed to submit a formal planning application in 2015.

State Energy Companies

State Asset Disposals - Sale of BGÉ

In June 2014, following an extensive sale process, the sale of Ervia's (formerly Bord Gáis Éireann) energy business (Bord Gáis Energy) was completed, with Bord Gáis Energy being sold to a consortium comprising of Centrica plc, Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners LP and iCon Infrastructure for a total enterprise value, inclusive of debt, of €1.1 billion.

A special dividend of €150 million was received from Ervia in July 2014 representing the first instalment of proceeds from the sale of Bord Gáis Energy. The net proceeds of the sale, when combined with the planned re-gearing and the contingent consideration, are expected to deliver total dividends in the order of €1 billion for the Exchequer. Further proceeds from the transaction will be paid to the Exchequer over time.

Partial Merger of Bord na Móna and Coillte

In June 2014, the Government decided to streamline and refocus certain commercial operations of Bord na Móna and Coillte. The decision requires Bord na Móna and Coillte to proceed with a partial merger in four key areas: wind; biomass; tourism and recreation; and shared services.

It is anticipated that, subject to appropriate regulatory and other approvals being confirmed, the initial corporate structures will be in place during 2015.

Renewable Energy

Two REFIT schemes remained open for applications and the amount of energy from renewable sources continued to grow in 2014. Although onshore wind energy has been the most cost effective renewable technology in the Irish electricity market, there is also potential to diversify our renewable electricity generation portfolio in the period to 2020 and beyond by realising the potential of our indigenous resources such as ocean and bioenergy.

In this regard, the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) was launched in February 2014 and provides a framework for the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy in Ireland. It sets out key principles, goals, policy actions and enablers for the delivery of Ireland's significant potential in the area of Offshore Renewable Energy. Reflecting the need for coordinated support from across Government, a cross departmental and multi-agency Steering Group was established to oversee the implementation of the OREDP via three work streams.

In addition, a Draft Bioenergy Plan was published in October 2014. The draft plan identifies the opportunity, at a national level, for the sustainable development of Ireland's biomass resources and will be implemented through a number of policy and enabling actions. A cross-departmental Steering Group, chaired by the Department, has been established to oversee the implementation of the Draft Bioenergy Plan.

In terms of the longer term decarbonisation objectives, negotiations commenced in 2014 on the EU Climate and Energy Framework 2030 and the Department is actively participating in the whole of Government approach, which is underpinned by rigorous systems and economic modelling, to determine a technically feasible, cost-effective and fair contribution for Ireland to make to the overall EU ambition.

Better Energy Schemes

Government expenditure on the Better Energy Schemes, which are funded through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, was €53.75 million in 2014 consisting of:

- €20.7 million spent on the Better Energy Warmer Homes with 9,056 homes receiving energy upgrades;
- €9.05 million spent on projects under the Better Energy Area Based Programme with 3,209 homes upgraded;
- €9.9 million spent on the Better Energy Homes scheme with 9,927 homes grant aided;

- €14.6 million on the Better Energy Communities scheme - 58 projects were approved with   projects fully completed by year end.

Other key areas of SEAI spend in 2014 included Public Sector Energy Efficiency Support €1.2 million and Energy Efficiency in Business €1.2 million.

Transposition of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive

To give effect to Irelands undertaking and obligations under the Energy Efficiency Directive the necessary legislative requirements were transposed into Irish law in 2014 through two separate statutory instruments. (S.I. 131 of 2014 and S.I. 426 of 2014)

Establishment of the Energy Efficiency Supplier Obligation

In 2014 an obligation scheme for energy suppliers was established as provided for by the EU Energy Efficiency Directive. This requires all energy suppliers to take measures to deliver energy efficiency measures to their customers across the commercial, residential sectors and for those customers experiencing energy poverty. The measure is a major tool for delivering Ireland's 2020 energy efficiency target. A report outlining the energy savings delivered will be published in 2015.

Energy Efficiency Fund

The Energy Efficiency Fund was established in March 2014, with provision of seed capital of €35 million by the Government. In May 2014, the €35 million Energy Efficiency Fund was launched with a capital injection of €17.2 million from the Irish Government and private funding totalling €17.8 million. The objective of the Fund is to provide appropriately priced finance for energy efficiency projects in the public and private sectors. The Fund will directly assist in stimulating energy efficiency upgrades in the commercial and public sectors investing in projects such as building retrofit, industrial energy efficiency, combined heat and power and urban infrastructure. In 2014 the fund completed 2 private sector projects and invested in a major local authority social housing heating upgrade project.

Public Sector Energy Efficiency

The public sector is required to improve its energy efficiency by 33% by 2020. In 2011 public bodies were required to monitor their energy usage. Based on this and the development of a comprehensive data collection system by the SEAI, the first report on public sector energy usage was published for 2014. It showed that the sector is nearing halfway to its target. A total of 238 public bodies fully reported; with combined energy consumption of 8,495 GWh amounting to €588 million energy spend and a saving of €74 million.

Energy Labelling and Eco-Design

Compliance with the Energy Labelling, Ecodesign and Labelling of Tyres Directives and Regulations requires Member States to carry out market surveillance activities. This is to ensure that products available via national markets comply with specific EU requirements and to provide consumers and economic operators with an equivalent level of protection throughout the single market. DCENR is

the Market Surveillance Authority responsible for the enforcement of this legislation. Almost 100 inspections were carried out in 2014 to ensure retailers and importers are informed of their obligations under legislation.

EU and International Engagement

2014 was a very busy year at international level. Significant engagement on three specific, but inter-related issues, is particularly noteworthy: the European Energy Security Strategy; 'Framework 2030' which addresses the need for coherence in energy and climate change policy; and the 'Energy Union', an overarching EU level strategy to increase energy security and competitiveness across the EU.

High Level Goal - Natural Resources

To manage our inland fisheries, mineral, hydrocarbon and other geological resources in a sustainable and productive manner.

The Department is charged with managing the country's Natural Resources in a sustainable and productive manner. The sector is a key source of wealth creation, particularly across mining and inland fisheries, a significant source of employment and makes a real contribution to our economic welfare and revenue base.

Minerals

Ireland is Europe's largest producer of zinc metal in concentrate, accounting for approximately 28% of all European zinc output, and is the 10th largest producer in the world. In 2014 Ireland's mining sector, measured by the gross value of metal production (lead & zinc) was worth €417 million.

The Department's regulatory role was strengthened in 2014 by the continued monitoring of mining activities and compliance with the conditions of State Mining Licences and Leases including regular physical inspections of mining operations, both on surface and underground, to monitor mining activities, plans and records to ensure compliance with terms and conditions of those leases and licences and adherence to best practice.

The number of mineral prospecting licences held declined slightly in 2014 to 639 as of 31st December, compared with 661 licences at the end of 2013. Licences were held by a broad mixture of indigenous and major international exploration companies. Direct expenditure invested by prospecting licence holders in working these licences amounted to €15 million.   Ireland's mining policies and administration have once again been recognized in an international benchmark report of the Canadian based Frazier Institute. The most recent annual survey for 2014, based on responses from the industry, ranked Ireland first in the world among 112 jurisdictions for good mining policy.

Receipts from exploration and mining activities in 2014 were €6.448 million. Of this, €6.108million was in respect of mining receipts and € 0.340 million was in respect of exploration prospecting licence fees. Receipts of €0.25million were also received relating to refunds received from a mining company for payment of private mineral compensation.

Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration

In 2014 six Licensing Options awarded under the 2011 Atlantic Margin Licensing Round converted to full exploration licences.

The innovative approach adopted in 2011 of offering Licensing Options as the initial authorisation has proved highly successful, and by the end of 2014, eleven of the thirteen licensing options granted following the 2011 Round had converted to full exploration licences.

2014 also saw the formal launch of the 2015 Atlantic Margin Licensing Round which it is anticipated will build on the momentum achieved under the 2011 Round.

The 2015 Round opens for licensing all of Ireland's major Atlantic basins: Porcupine, Goban Spur, Slyne, Erris, Donegal and Rockall. The Round will close in September 2015 allowing sufficient time for exploration companies to devote resources and commence work on evaluating data, so that they can make strong applications.

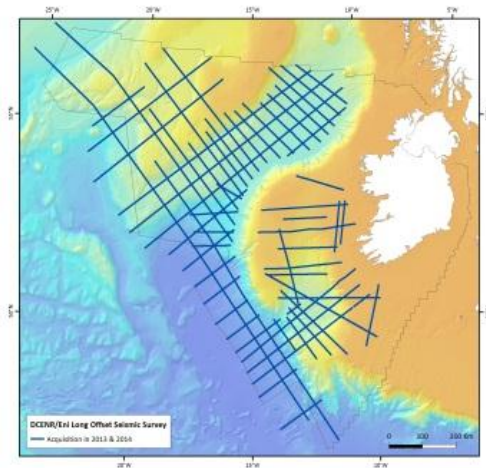## Review of fiscal terms for oil and gas production

On 17 June 2014 Government approval was received to revise Ireland's oil and gas fiscal terms along the lines recommended by international energy consultants Wood Mackenzie:

- Ireland should maintain for now a concession system, with industry rather than the State bearing the risk associated with investing in exploration;

- The special corporation tax rate applying to petroleum production should remain at 25%;

- A form of production profit tax should continue to apply in Ireland, but for discoveries made under future licences the form of this tax should be revised;

- The production profit tax should be charged on a field-by-field basis with the rate varying according to the profitability of the field and charged on each field's net profits;

- The revised production profit tax should include a minimum payment at a rate of 5% resulting in the State receiving a share of revenue in every year that a field is selling production; and

- The revised tax rates should be higher than the Profit Resource Rent Tax currently in place. This would result in a maximum rate of 55% applying in the case of new licences, compared with a maximum rate of 40% under the current fiscal regime.

The Department will work with the Department of Finance and Revenue Commissioners to give operational effect to this approach in the Finance Bill 2015 and the new regime will apply in the case of future exploration licences, including those to be awarded under the 2015 Atlantic Margin Licensing Round.

Regional Seismic Survey

2014 saw the completion of joint Department-Industry Regional Seismic Survey, the largest regional 2D seismic survey ever to be acquired in the Irish Offshore with over 16,800 km of full-fold seismic data acquired.

The survey provides a regional grid of high-quality 2D seismic data over Ireland's frontier basins and the data acquired will be of particular interest to the Department, industry and researchers.

Interpretation of the data should allow a greater understanding of Ireland's petroleum systems, de-risk estimates of resource potential and in addition enable both the Department and industry to better evaluate future licensing opportunities.

Unconventional Gas Exploration and Extraction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on behalf of the EPA, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, along with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), has awarded a contract to a consortium led by CDM Smith Ireland Limited, who will carry out a 24-month research programme looking at the potential impacts on the environment and human health from UGEE projects and operations (including construction, operation and after-care).

The Joint Research Programme (JRP), which is administered by the EPA, is composed of five interlinked projects and will involve field studies (baseline monitoring of water and seismicity), as well as an extensive desk-based literature review of UGEE practices and regulations worldwide.

The JRP has been designed to produce the scientific basis, which will assist regulators – both North and South – in making informed decisions about whether it is environmentally safe to allow fracking. As well as research in Ireland, the JRP will look at and collate evidence from other countries.

No decisions will be taken on any licence application that proposes the use of UGEE in exploration drilling until the Research Programme is complete and there has been time for the Government and other interested parties to consider its findings.

Geoscience Development & Research

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) continues to develop its long standing role in the provision of geological data, information and planning tools as the National Geoscience Agency for Ireland, and is the lead agency for a number of specific initiatives.

INFOMAR

INFOMAR is the flagship National programme to map all of our valuable marine territory, which is almost ten times our landmass. The programme is funded by the Department and is being undertaken in conjunction with the Marine Institute. Previous external economic studies have shown that the return on investment is over four times the cost of data acquisition and importantly, this return is spread across multiple sectors, public and private, including SMEs and Research organisations. In 2014, the programme mapped over 3,000 km2 of area including Lough Swilly, Broadhaven Bay, Blacksod Bay, Killary approaches, West Clare, Tralee Bay and offshore West Cork. INFOMAR also delivered two new added value applications, the Education Outreach and Development Programme (EODP) for transition year students and the INFOMAR CFT Dive Guide, a smartphone app linked to Blueway tourism. The data and knowledge being gathered under the INFOMAR programme is not being collected as an end in itself and the areas utilising the data obtained under the project include: marine safety/charting; offshore energy; aquaculture; coastal protection; environmental protection; shipwreck heritage and research.

Geoscience Initiatives

These are a series of targeted measures managed by GSI, to support planning and develop the role and application of Geoscience in Ireland. A number of pilot programmes were undertaken in 2014 on potential new multiannual projects, based on stakeholder demand and newly available datasets. These included Integrated Land mapping, combining surficial and deeper geological mapping in response to new Tellus datasets, and Groundwater 3D mapping of complex aquifers in karst areas, where particular water quality issues exist. In addition Landslide Susceptibility Mapping was completed in Donegal, South Tipperary, Laois/Offaly and Galway and a new National Quarry Directory and online viewer was launched.

Tellus

Tellus is the name given to the systematic programme of scientific data collection on soils, water and rocks by ground geochemical sampling and airborne geophysical surveys. In 2013 the EU (INTERREG) funded Tellus Border project was completed and in 2014 an extremely positive external evaluation of the project was received. Information from the project is helping to manage the environment and support sustainable development of our natural resources. Since data from the Tellus Border project was released, the region has seen an increase in prospecting licence applications, with 49

Prospecting licences granted to date, involving a committed spend of up to €1.5 million over a six-year period in the Irish economy, securing highly skilled jobs and investment in this sector. In follow up to impact to date, and response to stakeholder requests, the Tellus North Midlands project was initiated across Longford, Westmeath and Roscommon in 2014.

Geoscience Ireland

Throughout 2014, GSI have continued to work with Enterprise Ireland to develop a business cluster Geoscience Ireland (GI). There is an acknowledged need to internationalise the skills and services provided by the wider geological community and the cluster was increased to 22 companies employing over 1,200 people with a turnover of over €150 million. Member companies have to date provided over 110 new jobs and operate in over 50 countries.

Research

GSI continue to support Geoscience research through data provision, partnering and financial assistance. In 2014 the multiannual Griffith Geoscience Research programme largely concluded and reported at the Geoscience 2014 Conference. During the year GSI continued to work with third level geoscience institutes, industry and the Department in relation to the Science Foundation Ireland Centres Programme, and was successful in having the Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geoscience (iCRAG) awarded funding. The centre, which will be led by UCD, was awarded funding of €18 million along with an additional €8 million from industry partners for a six year period to end 2020 and is expected to have a significant impact for Irish geoscience and its societal impact.

Inland Fisheries

The Department continued to implement Government policy to fully align the management of the wild salmon fishery with scientific advice and to this end a total of 16 bye-laws and 3 Statutory Instruments were introduced, 9 of the bye-laws were river-specific, taking cognisance of individual stocking levels. A suite of regulations ahead of the 2015 salmon season was put in place by the end of 2014.

Implementation of the national eel management plan, to comply with EU Council Regulation 1100/2007, continued, including operations for the trapping and transporting of eels around ESB hydro-stations on the Shannon, the Lee and the Erne and the undertaking of scientific sampling as provided for in the plan.

The Department exercised corporate governance over Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Loughs Agency (through the North South Ministerial Council) ensuring compliance with the relevant codes of practice, adherence to budgetary profiles and the achievement of requirements under the relevant acts and the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

The Department worked closely with IFI in 2014 to ensure continued progress on efficiencies, property rationalisation, and innovation in terms of fisheries protection to increase effectiveness in the deployment of resources. In relation to property rationalisation, Inland Fisheries Ireland moved into its new Headquarters in Citywest in April 2014 to continue the strategy of exiting from expensive long term leases, in line with Government policy and the rationalisation of operations. It is anticipated that this move will generate savings of €0.7 million per annum on rent and other running costs.

In recognition of the need for a complete overhaul of the legislation governing the inland fisheries sector, the Department continued the detailed review of the Fisheries Acts 1959-2010, along with wide range of associated secondary legislation, with a view to producing one modern statute for the sector.

The Minister and Minister of State attended three meetings of the North South Ministerial Council, Aquaculture and Marine Sector under which the Loughs Agency of the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC) under the co- sponsorship of the Department operates.

High Level Goal - Corporate & Financial Affairs

To promote and operate a culture of value for money and continual evaluation of our performance in a measureable, transparent and accountable manner. To develop our staff and deliver the public service reform agenda whilst providing a high quality service to our customers and stakeholders.

Human Resources

Strategic HR

In November 2014, the transactional HR functions moved from the Department to the HR shared service centre, PeoplePoint. The transition has been successful with minimal disruption to everyday business and a good working relationship has been established between the Department and PeoplePoint. Work has commenced on the recasting of HR to take account of retained functions as well as a more strategically focused approach to supporting management and staff in the achievement of their business objectives.   The development of a new HR strategy will be central to this.

Organisational structure

During 2014, the Department carried out a capacity review, the purpose of which was to ensure that the right organisational structure and arrangements are in place in the Department to support the needs of Government, Ministers and stakeholders and to deliver our key business priorities efficiently and effectively. The Review examined our current service delivery record, opportunities for improving it and the constraints to realising those opportunities. It focussed on the themes of strategy, structure, people/capacity, communications and support services and it involved extensive engagement with Departmental staff and external stakeholders.

In response to the review, an Action Plan was developed which aims to address in a meaningful way the recommendations from the review.   One of these recommendations involved a proposed a re-structuring of the Department and re-engineering of internal policymaking and communications processes together with the establishment of a Head of Governance and Operations function to support improved delivery across a range of programmes. Implementation of the required structural changes on a phased basis has commenced. A new Strategic Development and Communications Unit has been established to oversee implementation of the action plan and to support implementation and communication of progress under the Public Service Reform Plan.

The review also identified the need for enhanced capacity in key specialist areas to ensure that the Department can deliver fully in the policy, legislative and operational delivery areas and can engage fully and proactively in the strategic sectors for which it is responsible. The Department has commenced work on the appointment and recruitment of these resources.

Workforce planning

The 2014 Workforce Plan was finalised and submitted to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER). The Department are members of a Workforce Planning Network, organised by DPER, and this ensures that best practice is adhered to in relation to this important activity.

Resourcing

The Department has provided 45 internship places to date and took on 11 interns in 2014 under the FÁS JobBridge scheme. The Department will continue to leverage this scheme. The Department also filled 4 positions through redeployment in 2014. In addition the Department has taken a pro-active approach with other public sector bodies in taking on staff with specialized qualifications to work in cross team structures to deliver the more complex time critical projects.

Skills register

Staff are encouraged to review and update their input into the Skills Register on a regular basis and the data is used to inform decision making on issues such as internal mobility. As part of the conclusion of the 2014 Performance Management cycle, a request has been issued for staff to update the newly acquired skills and qualifications for 2014.

Leadership/Individual Performance

The completion rate for PMDS within the Department in 2014 was 96%.

Recognising calibration as an important performance tool within the Department, significant resources were allocated to the introduction of calibration on a pilot phase in 2013. Given the high satisfaction rates on the process and qualitative feedback indicating that those involved found it to be a valuable exercise, the calibration exercise was continued as part of the PMDS model in this Department in 2014.

Attendance Management Policy

The Departments Attendance Management Policy was updated to reflect the introduction of the new the Public Service Management Sick Leave Regulations. With the proactive management of sick leave and the introduction of the new sick leave limits, the trend in the reduced rate of sick leave has continued and the Department achieved a lost time rate of 2.6% for 2014, which is well within the overall target rate of 3.5% for absenteeism across the Civil Service.

ICT

The Department continued to operate shared services with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on ICT and the Department of Finance on payroll.

The development of the Department's Digital Communications Plan commenced in 2014. This plan covers the development of a new website, a refresh of the Department's branding and the compilation of a new social media strategy.

The Geological Survey of Ireland has established a comprehensive document repository which, through the development of the GOLDMINE application will make these documents available to the public. This supports the Government's policy on 'open data'. The development is underway and will be completed in quarter one 2015.

The National Broadband Mapping Project (see www.broadband.gov.ie) took broadband coverage information provided by the industry and delivered internal web-maps showing individual provider's area of coverage and detailed statistics for analysis. This website and mapping service went live in November 2014.

A new Public Viewer was added to the Integrated Petroleum Affairs system (IPAS) and went live in quarter one 2014. Feedback from external customers has been good. In quarter three the web-map component was upgraded to match the IPAS Public Viewer technology.

The eSubmission application was developed and successfully launched in September 2014. This application electronically tracks and manages submissions from first draft to consideration and approval by the Management Committee and Minister.

Finance

Gross Expenditure for 2014 was €424.743 million, which funded key measures in the Communications, Broadcasting and Energy and Natural Resources areas. This represented a saving of €15.263m million or 3.5% of the budget allocation.

Overview of Energy Usage in 2014

In 2014, the Department consumed 2,997,561kWh of energy which is a 12.2 % reduction of energy consumption over the baseline period 2006-2008.

The Department strives to achieve energy savings on an ongoing basis and continues its interactions with OPW and the SEAI in this regard. Energy consumption in monitored on an ongoing basis through usage reports, to identify any energy waste. The proactive management of in house building management systems aims to ensure the most efficient energy consumption is achieved. The Department participation in the OPW energy efficiency campaign "Optimising Power @ Work" encourages energy efficiency awareness amongst staff through regular reminders via the email network and noticeboard postings.

Irish Language Officer - Official Languages Act 2003

The Department appointed an Irish Language Officer in March 2013. In accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the Official Languages Act 2003, the Department has in place a Scheme specifying the services being provided through Irish. As part of its policy to provide services through Irish, the Department publishes all corporate publications in both Irish and English, including its Statement of Strategy, Annual Report, documents setting out policy proposals, and other publications such as guidelines, information leaflets and application forms. An example of this is the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) Information Booklet 2012, which is available in Irish. The

Department has parallel Irish and English language websites providing general information and services provided, and is currently developing a more streamlined website that will be bilingual. The Department remains committed to encouraging the development of Irish language skills across all areas of the Department.

Appendix A: Structure of the Department at end 2014

MARK GRIFFIN

SECRETARY GENERAL

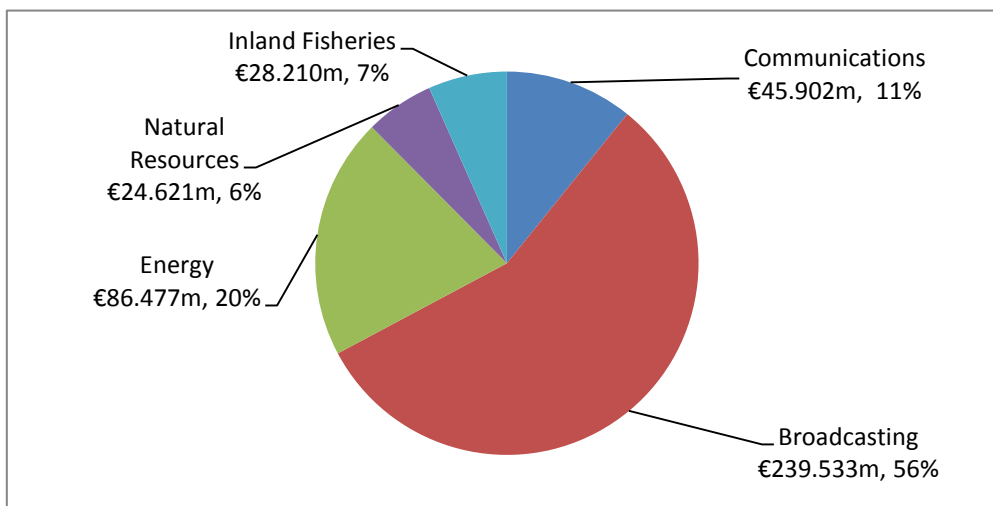| KATHERINE LICKEN	KEN SPRATT	MICHAEL MANLEY	EAMONN MOLLOY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	ASSISTANT SECRETARY	ASSISTANT SECRETARY	ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Communications Policy and Knowledge Society Communications Business and Technology Communications Development	Energy Efficiency and Affordability Electricity and Gas Regulation Electricity Corporate and Energy Planning Oil Security and Energy Corporate Governance Renewable and Sustainable Energy Chief Technical Advisor's Office	Corporate Support Finance and Corporate Affairs Internal Audit Inland Fisheries Geological Survey of Ireland Exploration and Mining Petroleum Affairs	Human Resources Information Systems Press Postal Broadcasting Policy Cross Media Economic Unit Legal Unit Oifig na Gaeilge

Appendix B: Vote 29 - 2014 Estimates and Outturn

Subhead	Estimate €000	Outturn €000
COMMUNICATIONS		
A.1 - Administrative Pay	3,891	3,758
A.2 - Admin Non Pay	2,627	2,107
A.3 - Information and Communications Technology	32,001	31,770
A.4 - Multimedia Developments	5,800	6,123
A.5 - Information Society & eInclusion	6,852	2,144
A.6 - Change Management Fund	1	-
A.7 - Other Services	501	-
Sub-total	51,673	45,902
BROADCASTING		
B.1 - Admin Pay	860	830
B.2 - Admin Non Pay	464	373
B.3 - Grant to RTE	181,074	178,828
B.4 - Payment to an Post	12,457	11,063
B.5 - Grant to TG4	34,283	34,283
B.6 - Broadcasting Fund	14,354	14,156
Sub-total	243,492	239,533
ENERGY		
C.1 - Admin Pay	4,165	4,021
C.2 - Admin Non Pay	1,807	1,456
C.3 - SEAI Admin & General Expenses	7,555	6,996
C.4 - Sustainable Energy Programmes (incl Capital carryover)	64,737	63,802
C.5 - Energy Research Programmes	11,040	10,021
C.6 - Strategic Energy Infrastructure	-	-
C.7 - Gas Services	32	31
C.8 - Subscriptions to International Organisations	240	150
Sub-total	89,576	86,477
NATURAL RESOURCES		
D.1 - Admin Pay	5,552	5,361
D.2 - Admin Non Pay	3,190	2,193
D.3 - Petroleum Services	641	374
D.4 - Mining Services	3,685	1,302
D.5 - GSI Services	540	572
D.6 - Geoscience Initiatives	2,984	4,336
D.7 - National Seabed Survey	3,000	3,048
D.8 - Ordnance Survey Ireland	7,415	7,315
D.9 - Subscriptions to International Organisations	135	120
Sub-total	27,142	24,621

Subhead	Estimate €000	Outturn €000
INLAND FISHERIES		
E.1 - Admin Pay	883	852
E.2 - Admin Non Pay	399	320
E.3 - Inland Fisheries	26,841	27,038
Sub-total	28,123	28,210
Gross Total	**440,006**	**424,743**
APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID		
F.1 - Proceeds of Fines & Forfeitures for fishery offences	50	19
F.2 - Mineral & Petroleum Receipts	11,550	9,400
F.3 - Petroleum Infrastructure Support Group	437	297
F.4 - Broadcasting Licence Fees	217,130	213,293
F.5 - Geological Survey Receipts	415	1,081
F.6 - Rent on properties in GPO	223	78
F.7 - Emergency Call Answering Service	250	-
F.8 - Miscellaneous Receipts	2,888	2,831
F.9 - Receipts from pension-related deduction	4,057	3,797
Appropriations-in-Aid Total	237,000	230,796
Net Total	**203,006**	**193,947**

2014 Provisional Outturn Summary	
PROGRAMME	**Outturn €000**
Communications	45,902
Broadcasting	239,533
Energy Sector	86,477
Natural Resources	24,621
Inland Fisheries	28,210
Total	**424,743**

2014 Provisional Outturn

Appendix C: Legislation

Acts Enacted and Other Bills:

ACTS:

The ESB (Electronic Communications Networks) Act 2014.

[The primary purpose of the Act is to provide an explicit legal basis to allow the ESB to install or to allow others to install electronic communications infrastructure along its electricity network.]

Bills Progressed or Initiated:

- Minerals Development Bill

- Geothermal Energy Development Bill

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following Statutory Instruments were made in 2014:

S.I. No.	TITLE
18 of 2014	Electricity Supply Board (Superannuation) Order 2014.
82 of 2014	Bord Gáis Éireann Subsidiary Companies (Dissolution) Order 2014.
131 of 2014	European Union (Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme) Regulations 2014
132 of 2014	Control of Fishing for Salmon Order 2014.
145 of 2014	Gas Regulation Act 2013 (Part 1, Part 3 and Section 38(d)) (Commencement) Order 2014
208 of 2014	Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (Accelerated Capital Allowances for Energy Efficient Equipment) (Amendment) (No. 1) Order 2014
229 of 2014	Gas Regulation Act 2013 (Sections 5 to 12) (Commencement) Order 2014
279 of 2014	European Communities (Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.
286 of 2014	ESB (Electronic Communications Networks) (Commencement) Order 2014.
287 of 2014	Change of Name of Bord Gáis Éireann to Ervia (Appointed Day) Order 2014.
301 of 2014	Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2014
351 of 2014	European Union (Energy Labelling) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.
363 of 2014	Inland Fisheries (Fixed Charge Notice) Regulations 2014.
426 of 2014	European Union (Energy Efficiency) Regulations 2014.
480 of 2014	European Union (Wholesale Energy Market Integrity and Transparency) Regulations 2014
482 of 2014	Sustainable Energy Act 2002 (Conferral of Additional Functions - Renewable Energy)(Amendment) Order 2014

483 of 2014	European Union (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2014.
538 of 2014	Gas Regulation Act 2013 (Sections 13 to 20) (Commencement) Order 2014
542 of 2014	Broadcasting Act 2009 (Section 130(1)(a)(iv) Designation) Order 2014.
578 of 2014	European Communities (Reporting of Electricity and Natural Gas Prices charged to Industrial Customers) Regulations 2014
579 of 2014	European Union (Notification of Investment Projects in Energy Infrastructure) Regulations 2014
603 of 2014	Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (Public Service Obligations) (Amendment) Order 2014
605 of 2014	Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (Accelerated Capital Allowances for Energy Efficient Equipment) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2014
610 of 2014	Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014

INLAND FISHERIES BYE-LAWS

Bye-Law No.	Title
917	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Newport River) Bye-law No 917 2014
918	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (River Shannon) (Catch and Release) Bye-law No 918 2014
919	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (River Feale including Galey and Brick) Bye-law No. 919 2014
920	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (River Nore) Bye-law No. 920, 2014
922	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (River Suir) Bye-Law No. 922, 2014
923	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (River Slaney) Bye-law No. 923, 2014
924	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law No. 924, 2014
C.S. 317	Conservation of Salmon and Trout (Wexford District) Bye-law No. C.S. 317, 2014
925	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (River Feale including Galey and Brick) (No 2) Bye-law No 925, 2014
927	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Extension to Snap Net Season) Bye-law No. 927 2014
928	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Bag Limits) Bye-law No. 928 2014
929	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Catch and Release) Bye-law No. 929 2014
930	Angling Bye-law No. 930 2014
931	Conservation of Sea Trout Bye-law No. 931 2014
932	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (River Suir) Bye-law No. 932 2014
C.S. 318	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Closed Rivers) Bye-law No. C.S. 318 2014

Appendix D: Petroleum Authorisations granted

A total of 65 petroleum authorisations were extant at 31 December 2014: These included

•   3 Petroleum Leases

•   18 Licensing Options (of which 5 were subject to follow-on applications),

•   30 Exploration Licenses (of which 4 were subject to follow-on applications)

•   14 Petroleum Prospecting Licences

Fifteen new authorisations were granted during 2014. These included six Frontier Exploration Licences, four offshore licensing options and five petroleum prospecting licences. Details of these new authorisations are set out in the following table:

Authorisation No.	Authorisation Type	Licensee	Area
PPL1/14	Petroleum Prospecting Licence	Excalibur Exploration Ltd	Irish Offshore
PPL2/14	Petroleum Prospecting Licence	Polarcus MC Limited	Irish Offshore
PPL3/14	Petroleum Prospecting Licence	Capricorn (Ireland) Ltd	Irish Offshore
PPL4/14	Petroleum Prospecting Licence	Seabird Exploration Multi-Client Ltd	Irish Offshore
PPL5/14	Petroleum Prospecting Licence	Searcher Seismic PTY Ltd	Irish Offshore
LO14/1	Licensing Option	Faroe Petroleum (U.K.) Limited	Irish Offshore
LO14/2	Licensing Option	Faroe Petroleum (U.K.) Limited	Irish Offshore
LO14/3	Licensing Option	Faroe Petroleum (U.K.) Limited	Irish Offshore
LO14/4	Licensing Option	Trans International Oil Exploration Thesus Limited	Irish Offshore
FEL1/14	Frontier Exploration Licence	Capricorn Ireland Limited Providence Resources Plc Chrysaor E&P Ireland Limited Sosina Exploration Limited	Irish Offshore

FEL2/4	Frontier Exploration Licence	Providence Resources Plc Sosina Exploration Limited	Irish Offshore
FEL3/14	Frontier Exploration Licence	Woodside Energy (Ireland) Pty Ltd Petrel Resources Plc	Irish Offshore
FEL4/14	Frontier Exploration Licence	Woodside Energy (Ireland) Pty Ltd Petrel Resources Plc	Irish Offshore
FEL5/14	Frontier Exploration Licence	Woodside Energy (Ireland) Pty Ltd Strike Oil Ltd.	Irish Offshore
FEL6/14	Frontier Exploration Licence	Providence Resources Plc Sosina Exploration Limited	Irish Offshore

**Roinn Cumarsáide,
Fuinnimh & Acmhainní Nádúrtha**
Department of Communications,
Energy & Natural Resources

Appendix E: Bodies under the aegis of the Department

The Department is responsible for 18 commercial, non-commercial and regulatory State bodies as outlined below.

BODY	MAIN ROLE
COMMUNICATIONS	
An Post	Ireland's national postal service provider.
Commission for Communications Regulation	ComReg is charged with the regulation of the communications market in Ireland. Its remit covers all kinds of transmission networks from the traditional telephone wire service through to operators providing TV services and from mobile phone networks to the postal service.
Digital Hub Development Agency	Established under the Digital Hub Development Act 2003 to oversee the development of the Digital Hub.
BROADCASTING	
Raidió Teilifís Éireann	RTÉ is a public service broadcasting corporation and a statutorily independent body.
TG4	TG4 is an Irish language public service broadcasting corporation and a statutorily independent body.
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI)	The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) was established on October 1st 2009, as an independent regulator for radio and television broadcasters in Ireland. The BAI has a range of objectives and functions. In carrying out its functions, the BAI must make sure that its approach to regulation is proportionate and takes into account the range and type of broadcasting services in Ireland. The BAI has a responsibility to ensure that broadcast regulation is stable. The Authority also has a role to play in encouraging technological development in the broadcasting sector.

BODY	MAIN ROLE
ENERGY	
Electricity Supply Board	The ESB is a statutory corporation established under the Electricity (Supply) Act 1927. It is a vertically integrated utility involved in the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity. Following the enactment of the Electricity (Supply) (Amendment) Act 2001 a 5% employee shareholding scheme was put in place.
EirGrid plc	EirGRID plc. was established to act as the independent Transmission System Operator (TSO), in line with the requirements of the EU Electricity Directive and became operational as the TSO on 1 July 2006.
Ervia	Ervia is a commercial semi-state company with responsibility for the national gas and water networks and infrastructure in Ireland. The name of Bord Gáis Éireann changed to Ervia on 20 June 2014 as a condition of the sale of Bord Gáis Energy. The sale was completed on 30 June 2014.
Commission for Energy Regulation	The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) is responsible for the licensing and authorisation of energy undertakings, ensuring security of electricity and gas supplies, regulation of certain tariffs and the development of national and regional electricity and gas markets in line with its statutory functions and national and EU requirements, , and safety regulation in respect of upstream petroleum extraction and exploration activities.
Irish National Petroleum Corporation	Following the sale of its business and commercial assets (Whitegate Refinery and Bantry storage terminal) in July 2001, the INPC has no operational capacity/ employees. Its current activities are limited to its rights and obligations under the Sale and Purchase Agreement attaching to the 2001 transaction.

BODY	MAIN ROLE
Bord na Móna plc.	Bord na Móna plc is a supplier of products and services based principally on peat. The Company is also providing products and services in environmental, renewable energy, electricity generation and waste management business sectors. In June 2014, the Government decided to streamline and refocus the commercial operations of Bord na Móna and Coillte, primarily in the bioenergy and wind energy sectors. The decision requires Bord na Móna and Coillte to proceed with a partial merger in four key areas: wind; biomass; tourism and recreation; and shared services.
National Oil Reserves Agency	Maintains strategic stocks of oil in line with the State's oil stockholding obligations to the EU and the International Energy Agency (IEA), and administer Ireland's Biofuels Obligation Scheme.
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), formerly the SEI, was established in 2002 to promote and assist the development of sustainable energy.
NATURAL RESOURCES	
Inland Fisheries Ireland	Inland Fisheries Ireland is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource and sea angling across the country.
Loughs Agency of the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission	The Agency is a North South Body established under the British Irish Agreement Act 1999, responsible for: (a) the promotion and development of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough for commercial and recreational purposes in respect of marine, fishery and aquaculture matters; (b) the management, conservation and protection, improvement and development of inland fisheries; (c) the development and licensing of aquaculture; and (d) the development of marine tourism.
Mining Board	An independent board set up under the Minerals Development Act 1940, its function is to determine compensation in various cases. It is also charged with deciding what minerals are to be excepted from the State's exclusive right to work minerals under that Act.
Ordnance Survey Ireland	Ordnance Survey Ireland provides quality mapping and geographic information services on a national basis.

Appendix F: Commercial State Sponsored Bodies

The Department's accounts do not consolidate the accounts of the State Sponsored Bodies under its aegis. However the Minister and through him the Department, had responsibility in 2014 on behalf of the State for six commercial State Sponsored Bodies and financial details in relation to these Bodies are available on the following websites.

www.anpost.ie

www.esb.ie

www.ervia.ie

www.bordnamona.ie

www.rte.ie

www.eirgrid.com

Appendix G: Acronym Index

AVMS	Audio-visual Media Services
BAI	Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
BGÉ	Bord Gáis Éireann
CACM	Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management
CER	Commission for Energy Regulation
COMREG	Commission for Communications Regulation
DCENR	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
DHDA	Digital Hub Development Agency
DPER	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
EODP	Education Outreach and Development Programme
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESB	Electricity Supply Board
EuroDIG	European Dialogue on Internet Governance
EU	European Union
FCILC	Loughs Agency of the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission
GAC	Government Advisory Committee
GPO	General Post Office
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
HLIG	European Commission's High Level Group on Internet Governance
IANA	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
ICGAG	Internet Content Governance Advisory Group
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
iCRAG	Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences
IEA	International Energy Agency
IGF	Internet Governance Forum
INFOMAR	The National Seabed Mapping project
INPC	Irish National Petroleum Corporation
I-SEM	Single Electricity Market Project
JRP	Joint Research Programme,
MANs	Metropolitan Area Networks
Mbps	Megabits per second
MW	Megawatt
NBS	National Broadband Scheme
NGA	Next Generation Access
NCSC	National Cyber Security Centre
NDRC	National Digital Research Centre
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
OREDP	Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan
PCI	Projects of Common Interest
REFIT	Renewable Energy Feed In Tariff

RTE   Raidió Teilifís Éireann
SEAI   Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SEM   Single Electricity Market
S.I.   Statutory Instrument
TSO   Transmission System Operator
UGEE   Unconventional Gas Exploration and Extraction