



Office of Public Works

Statement of Strategy

(2015-2017)

The Office of Public Works is in the positive position of being able to make a real contribution to the economic recovery of our country. This Statement of Strategy sets out the Office's high-level goals for the next three years. These goals are aimed at focussing the Office's contribution to Government policy in general and in the area of public sector reform in particular.

The Government is committed to public sector reform leading to a public service that is better integrated, responsive, efficient and more focused on strategic goals, on service users and on reducing the cost of delivering public services. The OPW's Statement of Strategy outlines our contribution to these reforms over this period.

The OPW's two main business areas are (1) Estate Portfolio Management, which encompasses Heritage Services and (2) Flood Risk Management. These business areas are supported by Corporate Services. Innovation and efficiencies in the OPW's business areas will contribute positively to Government's reform of the public sector.

Government aims to deliver greater value through more efficient management of the Government estate. This will be achieved through public service bodies sharing accommodation with one another and use of modern open-plan layouts, facilitating new ways of working. This will require a smaller property footprint, allowing savings both by surrendering leases and by using more modern, energy efficient buildings. The OPW will play a leading role in achieving this rationalisation. The Chairman of OPW is the Senior Responsible Owner of Public Service Reform in relation to property. The Property Asset Management Delivery Plan is an ambitious programme of reforms, offering the potential for significant savings to the exchequer.

During the period of this Statement of Strategy, the OPW will complete the systematic national assessment of areas at risk of flooding, publish maps to identify those areas and finalise prioritised flood risk management measures to mitigate risks. OPW will develop an implementation strategy for Government setting out how these mitigation measures may be implemented, contingent upon appropriate resources being available to deliver the programme.

Since taking up my role in the OPW, I have been impressed by the team of staff and their professionalism, openness and commitment to change. I look forward to working with them on delivering the ambitious objectives laid out in this Statement of Strategy.

Simon Harris, T.D
Minister of State

Strategic Functions

Estate Portfolio Management

Vision: To set the standard for the management, maintenance, design, sourcing and conservation of the State Property and Heritage Portfolio and to lead the development of a national strategy, protocols and standards for maximising shared and efficient usage of high quality accommodation across the Public Service at a reduced cost

Flood Risk Management

Vision: To minimise the impacts of river and coastal flooding on society, households, businesses and the environment through the provision of flood risk guidance and advice in the area of sustainable planning, assisting the development of resilient communities and implementation of effective mitigation measures for areas at risk

Programmes

Manage and maintain the existing portfolio through appropriate strategic acquisitions and disposals to meet the operational needs of Clients and to add value for the State

Lead implementation of the actions in the Property Asset Management Delivery Plan

Apply planned and preventative maintenance across the OPW portfolio

Progress the energy awareness campaign in line with the Government's carbon reduction commitments

Engage in the ongoing maintenance and conservation of National Monuments and Heritage properties in State care and manage their operation and presentation to visitors

Implement the actions in the Government Policy on Architecture

Implement building programmes to provide quality built accommodation and facilities for Government and State clients

Coordinate an integrated, 'whole-of-Government' approach to flood risk management

Implement CFRAM Programme and related risk assessment and management initiatives

Provide an Advisory Service to DECLG and Planning Authorities

Implement Capital Flood Defence, Coastal Protection and Arterial Drainage Maintenance Schemes and support local authorities in delivering some major and minor works

Assist the public to prepare for and recover from flooding

Objectives

Develop a comprehensive Property Asset Management strategy, comprising:

- Rationalisation, re-investment and maintenance options for the property portfolio

- An asset management strategy in place to manage State property disposal
- Establish a 20-year strategy for all OPW owned property

Enhance the strategic capacity and capability in property asset management across the Public Service and streamline property asset management administration

Reactive building maintenance service replaced by planned & preventative maintenance programmes, informed by building condition assessments

Rolling out the Optimising Power @ Work Programme across the public service

- Achieve world class outcomes in conservation and uphold excellent heritage site management standards
- Increase visitor footfall at heritage sites, resulting in greater resources for reinvestment
- Ensure the necessary professional, technical and craft skills are available to meet the Government commitment to heritage conservation

Provide technical advice to Government and agencies, promote quality in the built environment, sustainability, public awareness, education and research

Provide design and management services for the Government & State clients' building & property needs in support of the Property Asset Management strategy

Deliver appropriate flood risk policy advice, proposals, strategies and plans

Define long-term strategies for flood risk management, taking account of the potential aspects of climate change

Support sustainable planning and development

Flood Relief Schemes (at varying stages of design, planning, implementation & completion), effective drainage channels and embankments and local solutions for local flood problems

Support local resilience initiatives and develop public flood risk data and information services

Outcomes

- Reduced cost of rental and related costs to the State
- Accommodation designed to facilitate improved service delivery
- Savings to the State arising from a planned disposal programme
- Property solutions for clients provided in a planned manner consistent with a 20-year strategy for all OPW owned property

A 'whole-of-Government' approach to managing the State's property assets and providing a strategic property solutions service

Strategic approach to maintenance on a planned basis to cover all buildings over a period of time

Plan in place for increasing existing energy savings with a view to achieving Government target for 2020

- Increased awareness of and commitment to Ireland's Heritage
- Improved support for and participation in the Tourism economy
- Greater recognition of value of OPW heritage brand
- Greater utilisation of the State Heritage Portfolio as an educational and employment resource

Act as point of reference in the dissemination of knowledge and expertise, lead by example and publish research and guidance documents

Provide design excellence, construction and support services that are of the highest standard in terms of quality, cost and programme

An integrated, 'whole-of-Government' approach to Flood risk management based on appropriate national policies, sectoral strategies, & coordinated actions set out in Flood Risk Management Plans

A prioritised programme of capital investment for the protection of communities

Reduced new development in flood prone areas and sustainable redevelopment of urban centres

Protection of property, transport infrastructure and productive agricultural land in areas prone to flooding contributing to the sustainability of local communities

Safer, resilient communities that are prepared for, and can recover from, flood events

