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**AN BILLE UM CHOSAINT SHIBHIALTA 2002  
CIVIL DEFENCE BILL 2002**

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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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*General*

The main purposes of the Bill are—

- (a) to update Civil Defence legislation generally. Civil Defence currently operates under the Air Raid Precautions Acts 1939 and 1946, and
- (b) to provide for the establishment of the Civil Defence Board to oversee, supervise and co-ordinate the operations and future development of Civil Defence in co-operation with, and in support of, all of the major emergency services, and to advise the Minister on policy issues.

*Part 1* provides for the definition of civil defence to be identical to that already provided in the Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act 1998.

*Part 2: Chapter 1* provides for the establishment of the Civil Defence Board and its functions and membership, including the appointment of a Director General.

*Section 9* provides for the transfer from the Minister to the Board of certain functions under the Air Raid Precautions Act 1939 relating to the training of persons and the supplying of equipment.

*Section 19* provides for the funding of the Board to be by way of grant-in-aid from the Defence Vote and to be expended solely for the purposes of civil defence.

*Section 26* provides that if the Minister considers it necessary or expedient the Minister may direct the Board to provide or lend its equipment for specific purposes.

*Part 2: Chapter 2* provides for the work of the Board to be carried out through 4 named Committees and such other Committees as the Board may determine.

*Part 3* provides for each local authority to provide the Board with a 3 year development plan and to include certain information relating to civil defence in its annual report and sets out the general criteria for the provision of grants by the Board to local authorities for their civil defence activities.

*Part 4* provides for the Board to establish procedures for the recruitment and registration of Civil Defence members.

*Schedule 3* describes a number of community support programmes which the Civil Defence Board will develop further in co-operation with and in support of the major emergency services.

*An Roinn Cosanta.*  
*Eanáir, 2002.*