

Committee of Public Accounts
The Office of the Attorney General
General Briefing

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1. Overview

The Attorney General is the legal adviser to the Government and is a constitutional officer. The clients of the Attorney General and the Attorney's Office are the executive branch of Government, that is to say the Government as a whole, its individual members and the Departments they head. By virtue of Article 30.1 of the Constitution and section 6 of the Ministers and Secretaries Act 1924 and the Ninth Part of the Schedule to that Act, the Attorney General has control and responsibility for the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel to the Government and the Office of the Chief State Solicitor. The main functions of the Office of the Attorney General are:

- to provide legal advice to Government, Departments and Offices
- to draft legislation

The role of the Office of the Attorney General, including all its officers, is to assist and to advise the Attorney General in carrying out the functions of advising Government and in performing other functions specifically conferred by the Constitution and legislation. Under the Public Service Management Act 1997 authority for Management Committee (MC) of the Office, monitoring policies that affect the Office and the delivery of specified outputs devolves on the Head of the Office, who is the Director General.

Advisory Counsel

The Advisory side of the Office is divided into five specialist Groups covering all major legal specialisms. In addition, the Deputy Director General also has responsibility for specific specialisms. The Advisory side comprises experienced lawyers called Advisory Counsel each of whom specialises, to a significant degree, in a variety of specific areas of law. The principal duty of Advisory Counsel is to assist the Attorney General in the performance of functions and duties. Each Advisory Group has dedicated clerical support staff familiar with the business of the Group.

The range of subjects covered by the Groups is extensive, but the activities themselves fall into two functional areas, namely:

- (a) the provision of advice;
- (b) involvement in the provision of a drafting service to Government Departments.

Work of Advisory Counsel

The Office has put in place structures and systems to accommodate and address all routine queries as well as requests for urgent advice on significant legal issues. Advisory Counsel work closely with lawyers in the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel advising on legal issues arising in the drafting of legislation and with the Chief State Solicitor's Office advising on the conduct of litigation and other legal matters.

The range of advisory work normally undertaken by the Office is very broad and includes constitutional law, administrative law, European law, commercial law, public international law and criminal law – in fact, all areas of legal work in respect of which Government or a Department or Office may require advice. Requests for advice may be received from the Government as a whole, from Ministers, or from civil servants in Government Departments or Offices either directly to the Office or via the Chief State Solicitor's Office. Advice is frequently provided under extreme pressure of time.

Parliamentary Counsel to the Government

The Office of the Parliamentary Counsel to the Government (OPC) comprises a team of specialist lawyers trained to a high level in the discipline of drafting legislation. The Goal of the OPC is to provide a high quality professional, specialist and efficient legislative drafting service to Government.

Work of Parliamentary Counsel

The main work of the OPC is to draft Government Bills to be introduced into the Houses of the Oireachtas and to draft secondary legislation, where appropriate, for Government Departments or Offices, including Instruments transposing EU legislation into domestic law under the European Communities Act 1972. A growing area of work for the OPC is the drafting of Government amendments to Private Members' Bills (PMBs).

The OPC is organised into four Groups, each having responsibility for the provision of drafting services to specific Government Departments and Offices. Each Group has dedicated clerical support staff familiar with the business of the Group.

Permanent Representation to the European Union

The Office continued its assignment of an Advisory Counsel by way of secondment as Legal Counsellor to the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union in Brussels. Since its establishment in 1996, the role of the Legal Counsellor has become an essential and intrinsic element of the effective functioning of the Permanent Representation. Due to the participation of the Legal Counsellor in important EU negotiations, including Treaty reform and other significant legislative developments, the Attorney General is involved from an early stage in advising on significant EU legal issues. In March 2017 a second Advisory Counsel was seconded to the Permanent Representation of Ireland to assist with Brexit matters.

Seconded National Experts

In addition to the two officers seconded to the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union in Brussels, the Office also has three additional staff serving as seconded national experts in EU institutions whilst a fourth took up a position in the European Court of Human Rights recently.

2. Estimates

The Office's gross budget for 2018 was €6.121 million. Taking the Appropriation-in-aid (due to the Pensions Levy) of €799,000 the net provision for the Office was €5.322 million. This compares with a gross and net provision of €15.666 million and €14.900 million respectively for 2017. The Office is satisfied that it has sufficient funds in its Vote to discharge its functions

A more detailed breakdown of the 2017 figures is contained in Appendix A.

3. Staffing

The complement of staff in the Office of the Attorney General is kept under constant review to ensure that it is sufficient to meet the demands of the Government. The Office has sought to ensure that as far as possible the savings measures it has taken and the reductions in staff numbers it has implemented so far have not had an impact on its core work i.e. the provision of legal advice and drafting of legislation.

As of 31 December 2018, the Office of the Attorney General had a sanctioned staffing number, including the Law Reform Commission, of 160 (this figure includes 5 contract staff). The Office continues to pay close attention to its staffing numbers.

Advisory Counsel

At the end of 2018 the Advisory side of the Office had 39 staffing positions, all of which were filled.

Secondment Project

The secondment of Advisory Counsel Grade III as Legal Advisers to Government Departments which commenced in May 2006 continues. There are now 24 secondees in place in 14 Departments. The Office continues to recruit and train staff to fulfil the demand from Departments for the secondment of Advisory Counsel.

Parliamentary Counsel

The Drafting side of the Office had 33 sanctioned permanent staff drafter positions, 3 of which were vacant at the end of 2018.

Consultant Parliamentary Counsel

The Office currently engages a Consultant Parliamentary Counsel on a contract basis to assist in the drafting of legislation.

Administration

As of 31 December 2018 the Administrative side of the Office had a sanctioned staffing level of 61. Five of these posts were vacant at the end of 2018.

Law Reform Commission

At the end of 2018 there were 22 sanctioned posts in the Law Reform Commission, including the full-time Commissioner. Six of these posts were vacant at 31 December 2018.

4. Measures taken to Ensure and Maintain Efficiency

The following specific measures have been put in place in order to ensure that the work of the Office is discharged efficiently and to mitigate risk.

- Further development and enhancement of specialisation in the delivery of legal advice to deal with issues arising from litigation and legislation and other matters arising from the Programme for Government, the Better Regulation Agenda, e-Government Agenda, mass claims, EU developments, European Convention of Human Rights developments, intellectual property, tribunals and inquiries, childhood abuse, asylum, immigration, environmental law, new emerging areas of law etc.
- Continued review of work of Advisory Counsel through a formalised system of eight-week review cycles and systematic tracking and review of work of Parliamentary Counsel through regular Group meetings and meetings of the Government Legislation Committee.
- Bimonthly review meetings with Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and CSSO regarding constitutional cases in criminal law area.
- Weekly meetings between the Attorney General, Chief State Solicitor and Divisional Heads to discuss matters of general importance including general risk issues.
- Continued prioritisation of work through regular work reviews with Government Departments and, in the case of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, through the Government Legislation Committee.
- Bimonthly extradition/European Arrest Warrant meetings with Client Departments, Garda Síochána and Chief State Solicitor's Office.
- Continued provision of a high level of legal services in litigation to which the State is a party and in transactional matters.
- Continued assistance in the co-ordination of the legal services of the State through the provision of enhanced legal services to Government in relation to cross-cutting/interdepartmental issues through attendance and advising on inter-departmental committees and working groups, constructive participation with legal advisers in Government Departments and participation in regular review meetings with Departments in key areas of litigation and regular meetings between the Attorney General and Heads of Advisory Groups.
- Maintaining close liaison with the State Claims Agency in regard to the management of litigation.
- Co-operation and regular review meetings between legal staff in the Office and Departmental officials in devising appropriate legal strategies to ensure the ongoing effective management of domestic and European Court of Justice (ECJ) litigation.

- Monthly meetings of separate local MC in the Merrion Street Office and Chief State Solicitor's Office, three meetings annually of the joint Attorney General's Office/Chief State Solicitor's Office MAC to discuss organisational developments.
- Legal MAC, representative of the Attorney General's Office and the Chief State Solicitor's Office and attended by the Attorney meets 3 times yearly to discuss specific legal issues and sensitive litigation with a view to signing off on the sensitive cases reports to Cabinet.
- Co-operation and regular review meetings between legal staff in the Office and officials in client Departments so as to ensure that requests for advice, the drafting of Bills and managing litigation are effectively managed on an ongoing basis.
- Co-operation and regular review meetings between legal staff in the Office and relevant Departmental officials so as to ensure that mass litigation is effectively managed on an ongoing basis.
- Co-operation between the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel and the Government Legislation Committee.
- Full use of an electronic file management system to track legislation/legal files through the Office.

5. Challenges Facing the Office

Challenges in relation to law include:

- The nature of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union has yet to be determined. Nevertheless both orderly and disorderly scenarios have resulted in increased requests for advice to scope the potential impact of either form of departure by the UK on Irish legislation and the Irish legal system.
- With increased demand for urgent legislation to meet contingency demands as one possible consequence of Brexit, there is a consequential demand for legal advice on the draft Omnibus Bill and commensurate calls upon the resources of the Office of Parliamentary Counsel with imminent deadlines in areas that are both urgent and legally complex.
- The UK's withdrawal impacts ongoing areas of judicial cooperation such as the European Arrest Warrant system and current cases before the Courts require careful management in addition to providing client Departments with advices on future forms of such cooperation with the UK.
- Introducing processes to ensure flow of information through the Office on horizontal Brexit related issues and also to ensure that Interdepartmental Groups are serviced and advised as appropriate.

- The extent to which public law issues, including the interpretation of legislation and administrative decision-making are the subject matter of legal challenge.
- The potential widespread effect and large cost to the State in the event of findings of State liability in such cases.
- The emergence of new legal issues brought about by changes in society e.g. asylum and immigration and developments in education, health and social services policy and environmental law.
- The increasing volume, complexity and range of European law and litigation.
- Identifying the requirements of human rights law and ensuring that they are addressed when advising.
- The shortened timescales available for the provision of advice in connection with urgent and complex matters.
- The increasing pace in the delivery of Government services and the need for legal advice to support those services.
- The increasing demand for advice in relation to Private Members' Bills

Challenges in relation to drafting legislation include:

- Increasing demand to produce draft legislation of increasing complexity and urgency.
- Demand for legislation to be drafted in truncated timeframes as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, whether orderly or disorderly.
- Facilitating better planning and co-ordination of drafting work between the Office and Departments to achieve optimum use of resources through prioritisation.
- Meeting the ever increasing demand for drafting House amendments to Government Bills.
- Meeting the ever increasing demand for drafting Government amendments to PMBs.
- Meeting demands in relation to implementation and transposition of European legislation.
- Co-ordination between Departments of State in relation to policy formulation on cross-cutting legislation.
- The limited timescales available to provide Bills in connection with urgent matters.

Challenges in relation to organisational matters include:

- As a knowledge-based law office, ensuring a high degree of sharing of Knowledge Management and sharing of Know-how.
- In the context of increasing demands on the Office to provide legal services, making time to train new entrants comprehensively and continue professional development for all staff.
- Managing the turnover of staff and minimising the loss of knowledge and skills as a result of staff changes/losses.
- Managing staff numbers to ensure maintenance of services.

Challenges in relation to business processes and systems include:

- Adapting processes and systems to ensure that urgent work is completed to a high standard.
- Enhancing the Financial Management System and integration of the system with ACME (the office's case and records management system) to satisfy the Management Information Framework requirements of the Office with particular regard to financial and costs-related indicators especially in relation to counsels' fees.
- Introducing systems to monitor management information of non-financial indicators.
- Ensuring progress continues under the Public Service modernisation agenda, including Civil Service renewal initiatives and actions.
- Increased emphasis on the co-ordination of information resources to ensure that users have access to an appropriate range of information services and to ensure value for money.
- Continuing the process of embedding risk management within the Offices.
- Measuring, monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to achievement of the Office's objectives.
- Adapting existing systems and processes to ensure compatibility with the introduction of shared IT, HR and Finance services.

6. Information and Communications Technology

Financial Management System (FMS)

Financial transactions are processed using the Agresso FMS implemented in July 2004. Payroll transactions for full time equivalent staff are processed using the services of the NSSO.

The Office has implemented an electronic interface between FMS and NSSO for all T&S and Payroll transactions.

Separately the development of an electronic interface between the Case Records Management System (ACME) and the FMS enables commitment information in respect of Counsel Fees to be captured electronically.

This enhancement provides more comprehensive financial information of potential liability for future legal costs and has significant added value for management decision making.

An asset tracker system has been fully implemented in the Office ensuring that adequate systems of controls are maintained over all assets.

Case and Records Management System (ACME)

The system which allows for the workflow and management of files (legal and administrative) whilst also ensuring the integrity of the documents and records associated with the files. ACME is integrated with other systems to allow for the scanning and importation of hard copy data, and the provision of management reports, the Report to Government on Sensitive Files, and the weekly legislative report to the Government Chief Whip.

Electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB)

The Office contributes significantly to the e-Government agenda and its future potential, specifically in the context of the ongoing production, management and update of the electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB). The Office's eISB Group oversees the process of managing this service.

The eISB is an online repository of legislation that is freely available to the public through the website www.irishstatutebook.ie and includes Acts of the Oireachtas from 1922 to date, Statutory Rules and Orders from 1922 to 1947 and Statutory Instruments from 1948 to date and most of the pre 1922 public and general statutes in force in the State following the enactment of the Statute Law Revision Act 2007. The eISB has been customised to allow optimised access for mobile electronic devices such as smart phones, iPads etc.

A Legislation Directory for Acts (including extant pre 1922 Acts) is also published which enables users of the Irish Statute Book to identify whether a particular provision of an Act has been amended or otherwise affected since its enactment. A Legislation Directory for statutory instruments is also included, which identifies amendments and revocations to statutory instruments effected from January 1978. The full text of the Constitution with links to amending Acts is also published on the eISB.

The eISB has implemented the European Legislation Identifier (ELI). The ELI enables EU Member States to use standards based on-line identification of legislation and metadata properties describing each legal resource, so as to enable an effective, user-friendly and faster search and exchange of legal information. This is in line with Open Data principles and facilitates the direct linking of data from the eISB, for example the addition of a direct link from an enacted Act to a Revised Act where applicable as well as providing the legislation data in other formats that enable re-use.

The eISB also functions as the source database for the EU N-Lex project which is a common access portal for sources of national law currently managed by the EU Publications Office. The objective of this project is the development of a single harmonised multilingual search interface that will facilitate access to legislation across the European Union.

eLegislation

The OPC utilise an authoring tool (Legislation Work Bench (LWB)) to support the process of authoring and managing legislation text (Bills and Government amendments) with a view to reducing re-keying, proof reading and general tracking and administrative overheads in the preparation of legislation.

The authoring tool integrates with the LWB implementation in the Houses of the Oireachtas service (HOS). The LWB processes Bills using a Bill format as agreed between the OPC and HOS.

All Bills are processed through the system with the exception of emergency Bills and the Finance Bill. There has been a growing number of requests from Government Departments to the OPC for the drafting of Ministerial amendments to Private Members' Bills (PMBs). These are processed through the system too.

A user group comprising key members of the project from the OPC and the Bills Office has been holding meetings whenever required since October 2012.

7. Oversight and Compliance

The Office maintains an Audit Committee. Its membership includes 3 external representatives all of whom (including the chair) are from the private sector. It has been in place for a number of years and meets on a regular basis.

In conjunction with the CSSO and following a competitive tendering process in 2017, the Office engaged EY to provide Internal Audit services to both Offices for a term of 3 years. EY have undertaken a number of audits since their appointment.

8. Risk Management

The Office continues to embed risk management through six-monthly reviews of its Risk Register. The Office's Risk Management Policy is also reviewed periodically. Progress is monitored by the Risk Management Committee, local Management Committees, Main MAC and the Audit Committee. Other measures designed to help manage risk include;

- a. Regular meetings of the Legal MAC, chaired by the Director General and attended by the Attorney General and members from the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Chief State Solicitor take place.
- b. Reports to Government on sensitive and constitutional cases following consultation with all Government Departments are submitted to the Cabinet three times each year.

- c. The secondments of Advisory Counsel as Legal Advisers to Government Departments continues, there are now 24 secondments in place in 14 Departments.
- d. Regular reports to the Office's Audit Committee on the Risk Register and risk related matters.
- e. Meetings every two months between the Attorney General, Director General and other Attorney General Office staff, the Director of Public Prosecutions the Deputy Director and other Director of Public Prosecution legal staff including the Chief Prosecution Solicitor's Office and the Chief State Solicitor and other legal staff from that Office.
- f. Engagement by the Attorney, the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and OPC managers with the Government Legislation Committee, chaired by the Government Chief Whip, regarding the prioritisation of legislation and the publication of the Government Legislation Programme for each Dáil session and on-going monitoring of the progress of the drafting of legislation at regular meetings of the Committee.
- g. Regular meetings and dialogue by the OPC with Departments regarding the progress of draft legislation.

9. Quality Customer Service

Client and Customer Charters

The Office published its first Client and Customer Charters in 2005, in both languages. The current Charters (2016-2018) are available in both languages on the Office website, along with the Office's Client Service Guide 2016-2018.

The Office periodically undertakes satisfaction surveys of clients and customers of the Office and benchmarks the findings against previous results. So far, the results have all been positive and useful, enabling the Office adapt to meet our clients' needs as necessary.

Annual Reports

The Office's Annual Report for 2017 was submitted to Government and was laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas in November 2018. It is available in both languages on the Office website.

10. Statement of Strategy

The Office in conjunction with the CSSO has in place its Statement of Strategy 2016 – 2019 and it is available in both languages on the Office website. It was drawn up by a Working Group, representative of legal and administrative sides in both the AGO and CSSO and involved a comprehensive analysis of the working environment and interaction with clients.

11. Official Languages Act Scheme

The Office's current Scheme covering the period 2015 – 2018 is available in both languages on the Office website. The statutory Scheme sets out the services to be provided by the Offices through the mediums of Irish, English, Irish and English and the measures to be adopted to ensure that any service not provided by the Offices through the medium of the Irish language will be so provided within an agreed timeframe.

The Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht has requested the Office to review the current Scheme and prepare a new draft Scheme (to cover the period 2019-2022). A notice was published on www.tuairisc.ie and the Office website in November 2018 inviting submissions from interested parties in relation to the new draft Scheme. By the closing date of 31 December 2018 one submission had been received. The Offices are in the process of finalising a new draft Scheme for consideration by the Department.

12. Nomination of Counsel by the Attorney General

Since July 2003, Counsel wishing to be considered for nomination by the Attorney General for State work have been required to complete an application form, copies of which are available via the Office website. In 2011, the Office of the Attorney General and the Chief State Solicitor's Office put arrangements in place to increase the number of Junior and Senior Counsel briefed by the State pursuant to Section 7 of the Prosecution of Offences Act, 1974. These arrangements are designed to ensure an equitable distribution of State work to Counsel and to avoid situations where a small number of Counsel earn very large sums from the State.

13. General Law Expenses

A subhead was included in the Vote of the Office for the first time in 1998 to provide for the payment of legal fees where the CSSO has no involvement. This typically arises in relation to Human Rights cases and costs in relation to fisheries prosecution cases. The subhead in the past four years was as follows;

Year	Estimate	Outturn	Excess/ (Savings)
	€000	€000	€000
2016	190	121	(69)
2017	140	27	(113)
2018	140	71 (Provisional)	(69)

14. Production of Legislation

Forty two Government Bills were published in 2018. Thirty four Government Bills were published in 2017 while thirty five were published in 2016 and fifty two in 2015.

Government Bills published in 2017

Appropriation Bill 2017
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Bill 2017
Childcare Support Bill 2017
Civil Liability (Amendment) Bill 2017
Companies (Amendment) Bill 2017
Companies (Statutory Audits) Bill 2017
Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Bill 2017
Diplomatic Relations (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2017
Domestic Violence Bill 2017
Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Bill 2017
Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2017
Finance Bill 2017
Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman Bill 2017
Health (Amendment) Bill 2017
Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Bill 2017
Health Insurance Amendment Bill 2017
Independent Reporting Commission Bill 2017
Inland Fisheries (Amendment) Bill 2017
Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2017
Judicial Council Bill 2017
Legal Metrology (Measuring Instruments) Bill 2017
Mediation Bill 2017
Minerals Development Bill 2017

Ministers and Secretaries (Amendment) Bill 2017
Misuse of Drugs (Supervised Injecting Facilities) Bill 2017
National Archives (Amendment) Bill 2017
Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2017
Public Service Pay and Pensions Bill 2017
Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2017
Rugby World Cup 2023 Bill 2017
Sea-Fisheries (Amendment) Bill 2017
Social Welfare Bill 2017
Social Welfare, Pensions and Civil Registration Bill 2017
Water Services Bill 2017

Legislative Amendments and S.I.s

The Office of the Parliamentary Counsel also drafts a considerable number of amendments to Bills going through the Houses. In 2018 there were 3,622 amendments tabled. The numbers in previous years are as follows:

- for 2017 there were 3,166
- for 2016 there were 1,674
- for 2015 there were 7,180

In addition, the OPC drafts Statutory Instruments:

- in 2018, 146 S.I.s were drafted.
- in 2017, 234 S.I.s were drafted
- in 2016, 270 S.I.s were drafted
- in 2015, 268 S.I.s were drafted.

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The Office of the Attorney General

Financial Briefing

Vote 3: Office of the Attorney General

REV 2018 as published

Total Net: €15,322,000 – an increase of 3% (€422,000) on the 2017 net total of €14,900,000.

Total Gross: €16,121,000 – an increase of 3% (€455,000) on the 2017 gross total of €15,666,000

Purpose: For the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Attorney General. The 2018 Vote also includes a Grant of €2,280,000 to the Law Reform Commission.

Annual percentage increase of Estimate from 2016 Estimate

Gross (€000)

2016	2017	2018
15,483	15,666	16,121
	1.2%	4.1%

Net (€000)

2016	2017	2018
14,695	14,900	15,322
	1.4%	4.2%

Subhead A.1: Administration - Pay

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
11,263	10,463

Purpose:

To meet the Salaries, Wages and Allowances of the Attorney General and staff; Proportion of cost of Messenger Service provided by the Department of Finance; Overtime; Allowances and Social Welfare Employer's Contributions.

The outturn for 2017 was lower than anticipated due to vacancies taking longer than expected to fill.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	11,200	11,263	11,677
Outturn (€000)	10,283	10,463	10,771*

*(Please note that in table directly above and in the following tables in this appendix, the 2018 outturn figure provided is provisional as the 2018 appropriation account has yet to be finalised)

Subhead A.2(ii): Travel and Subsistence

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
170	178

Purpose:

To meet the costs for official travel undertaken by the Attorney General and staff. A large part of the travel budget is in respect of travel to Brussels, London, Luxembourg and Strasbourg as well as expenditure arising from the assignment of a Legal Attaché in the Permanent Representation in Brussels. A portion of foreign travel relates to attendance at training courses, seminars, conferences, meetings and court appearances.

The overspend in 2017 primarily arose from travel and subsistence costs associated with the posting of an additional officer to the EU to assist with Brexit matters.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	130	170	176
Outturn (€000)	153	178	249

Subhead A.2(iii): Training and Development and Incidental Expenses

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
610	647

Purpose:

To meet costs not provided in other Subheads. Includes provision for Staff Training & Development and Information Resources Services. The remaining provision was to meet expenditure on the following: Office Cleaning, Official and State Entertainment, Miscellaneous expenditure and catering.

The overspend of €37,000 in 2017 related to providing core publications and access to legal databases for new staff.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	600	610	640
Outturn (€000)	637	647	573

Subhead A.2(iv): Postal and Telecommunications

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
70	54

Purpose:

To meet the cost of Telephone Equipment and Calls (including mobile phones), Fax and Postal Charges, Courier Services, telephone equipment purchase and telephone equipment maintenance.

The €16,000 savings in this subhead arose due to lower than anticipated telecommunications costs.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	70	70	70
Outturn (€000)	64	54	56

Subhead A.2(v): Office Equipment and External IT Services

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
576	655

Purpose:

To meet the costs of providing for the Office's IT infrastructure as well as other Office equipment and supplies. The costs arising include those in respect of maintenance support of the Case and Records Management System (a joint system with the Chief State Solicitors Office), the contribution to PeoplePoint (the shared Human Resources Management System), updating of the Electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB), upgrading and maintenance of Library Systems and the ongoing maintenance and upgrading of the Financial Management System/Management Information Framework system. The subhead also covers Office Supplies, Photocopying and other Office Equipment. General IT licences, consumables and equipment are also accounted for under this subhead.

The 2017 overspend included; unanticipated development work to present the eISB website interface in both official languages; replacement of two older photocopiers that were incurring high maintenance costs; Servers and associated software licences required to access eCabinet; telephony equipment.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	559	576	590
Outturn (€000)	653	655	759

Subhead A.2(vi): Office Premises Expenses

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
160	96

Purpose:

To meet the costs associated with providing Office accommodation. This subhead covers Building Maintenance costs, Utilities and Furniture and Fittings.

The 2017 outturn was lower than expected due to lower than anticipated building costs. With an old building, there is always maintenance work to be carried out and large unexpected costs, such as flood damage, repairs to lifts etc... can arise during the year. Provisions need to be made for such contingencies under this subhead.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	156	160	160
Outturn (€000)	142	96	101

Subhead A.2(vii): Consultancy Services and Value for Money and Policy Reviews

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
50	4

Purpose:

This subhead includes provision for Information Technology-related consultancy and for Other Consultancies (Client Service etc).

The savings in 2017 arose because the Office's Internal Auditors withdrew from the market, thus resulting in fewer than anticipated audits (the office outsources its internal audit function).

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	20	50	50
Outturn (€000)	41	4	28

Subhead A.2(viii): Contract Legal Expertise

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
350	194

Purpose:

To meet the cost of engaging on a contract basis, Consultant Parliamentary Counsel who are required to draft legislation in view of the Government's extensive legislative programme.

Savings for 2017 arose due to a reduced requirement for Contract Legal Expertise. However it is necessary to continue to provide for this facility as it enables the Office to deal with unanticipated demands.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	401	350	300
Outturn (€000)	215	194	178

Subhead A.3: Contributions to International Organisations

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
38	35

Purpose:

Contribution is to the European Commission and Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission). As a member, the State is obliged to make this contribution and that payment is effected through the Office of the Attorney General.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	38	38	38
Outturn (€000)	34	35	39

Subhead A.4: Law Reform Commission (Grant)

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
Total: 2,239	Total: 2,187

Purpose:

This grant in aid is to meet the expenses of the Law Reform Commission. The Commission's mandate is to keep the law of the State under review with a view to its reform. The ultimate objective of law reform is that the laws of Ireland are suitable for a modern State and are accessible to all citizens, businesses and State Bodies. This is also reflected in the general reform agenda currently being undertaken by the Partnership Government and the Oireachtas.

The slight underspend in 2017 relates mainly to the delay in the filling of staffing vacancies.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	2,119	2,239	2,280
Outturn (€000)	1,878	2,187	2,003

Subhead A.5: General Law Expenses

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
140	27

Purpose:

To meet the cost of fees payable to Counsel engaged by the Office to provide legal opinion on cases where there is no CSSO involvement, as well as the payment of Counsel Fees in relation to Human Rights Cases and costs in relation to fisheries prosecution cases.

It is very difficult to accurately forecast expenditure in this area as it relates to cases or advice that may arise with little advance warning. Similarly, it is difficult to predict the movement of some ECHR cases. Therefore the Office must maintain an adequate amount of funding under this subhead to meet any legal costs that may arise.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	190	140	140
Outturn (€000)	121	27	71

Subhead B: Appropriations-in-Aid

2017 Estimate €000	2017 Outturn €000
766	668

Purpose:

To account for expected receipts e.g. Pension Levy €791,000 (AGO €730,000 & LRC €61,000) and other Miscellaneous Receipts (€8,000).

The shortfall in the 2017 outturn is accounted for by the fact that both Offices took time to recruit staff. As such less was paid from the A1 subhead to meet staff wages thus resulting in a reduction in the pension levy due.

	2016	2017	2018
Estimate (€000)	788	766	799
Outturn (€000)	743	668	1,023

Law Reform Commission

1. Commission's structure and statutory mandate

The Law Reform Commission comprises 5 members or Commissioners. The Commission President since October 2018 is Ms Justice Mary Laffoy (Mr Justice John Quirke was Commission President from August 2012 to September 2018). Mr Raymond Byrne is Commissioner (full-time), appointed in 2016 after a public appointments process under the auspices of PAS/TLAC. Three Commissioners (part-time) were appointed in 2015 for 5 year terms: Professor Donncha O'Connell, School of Law NUI Galway; Mr Tom O'Malley, Barrister-at-Law; and Ms Justice Carmel Stewart, judge of the High Court.

The Commission's statutory mandate under the *Law Reform Commission Act 1975* is to keep the law of the State under review with a view to its reform and to formulate proposals for its reform.

The value of law reform was underlined during the Oireachtas debates on the *Law Reform Commission Bill 1975*, promoted by the then Attorney General, the late Declan Costello, who stated:

"Governments in a dynamic and fast changing world should ensure that the laws are kept under constant review and are regularly and systematically reformed... It is necessary to have an agency for law reform capable of reviewing the law as a whole;... it should be composed of persons engaged full-time in the task of law reform;... it should work in close co-operation with the Government and through the Government with Parliament. These diverse and wholly desirable ends can best be achieved by the establishment of a Law Reform Commission."

The ultimate objective of law reform is, therefore, that the laws of Ireland are suitable for a modern state and are accessible to all citizens, businesses and State bodies. This is also reflected in the general reform agenda currently being undertaken by the Government and the Oireachtas. The *Programme for a Partnership Government 2016* states (p.101):

"A modern legal system must be able to respond to the changing values and attitudes of our society, resolve issues and promote equality. Through the implementation of a progressive law reform programme we can strengthen our Constitution, rule of law and our justice system for the benefit of everyone."

1.1 Legislation enacted in 2017, and pending, related to the Commission's work.

Acts enacted during 2017, and Bills and Schemes of Bills currently pending, that can be traced to the Commission's research work include the following:

1. **Mediation Act 2017 (statutory framework for mediation as an alternative to court-based litigation):** derived from the Commission's 2010 *Report on Mediation and Conciliation*.
2. **Part 3 and section 39 of Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 (sexual offences involving protected persons and third party disclosure):** derived from the Commission's 2014 *Report on Disclosure and Discovery in Criminal Cases* and 2013 *Report on Sexual Offences and Capacity to Consent*.
3. **Civil Liability (Amendment) Act 2017 (providing for periodic payment orders (PPOs) in catastrophic injury cases):** derived from the Commission's 1996 *Report on Periodic Payments*, and also the 2010 Report of the Working Group on Payments

for Catastrophic Injuries, chaired by Mr Justice John Quirke, former President of the Commission.

4. ***Civil Law (Presumption of Death) Bill 2016 (Passed Seanad Éireann, June 2018) to address civil law aspects of missing persons who are presumed dead***: see the Commission's 2013 *Report on Civil Law Aspects of Missing Persons*.
5. ***Scheme of Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (Part 5: Prevention of Benefit from Homicide)***: see the Commission's 2015 *Report on Prevention of Benefit from Homicide*.
6. ***Scheme of a Criminal Justice (Community Sanctions) Bill (expanded probation and community sanctions orders and regulating the court poor box)***: see the Commission's 2005 *Report on the Court Poor Box: Probation of Offenders*.

1.2 The Commission's Programmes of Law Reform and regulatory reform

In 2013, the Government, in accordance with the *Law Reform Commission Act 1975* approved the Commission's 4th Programme of Law Reform (see Heading 3, below), which had been reviewed in draft form by the Attorney General's Consultative Committee and by the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice and Equality.

The Government's Policy Statement *Regulating for a Better Future* (Department of the Taoiseach, 2013, paragraph 3.9) referred to the project in the 4th Programme of Law Reform concerning regulatory powers and corporate offences. This was one of the most wide-ranging undertaken by the Commission. In 2018, the Commission published its 2 volume *Report on Regulatory Powers and Corporate Offences* (LRC 119-2018), which was formally launched by the Attorney General.

The OECD's 2010 *Report on Better Regulation in Europe: Ireland* emphasised that the various processes to simplify, modernise and codify the law form an important component of the debate on regulatory reform. Another project in the 4th Programme of Law Reform concerns online accessibility and consolidation of legislation, on which the Commission has published an *Issues Paper on Accessibility, Consolidation and Online Publication of Legislation* (LRC IP 11-2016). This addresses how legislation could be made more accessible, including by developing planned programmes of consolidation and making best use of ICT to make more legislation in its amended form more accessible online.

In 2017-2018, the Commission engaged in extensive public consultation on a draft 5th Programme of Law Reform. In July 2018, the Commission's draft 5th Programme was reviewed by the Attorney General's Consultative Committee. On 16th January 2019, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice and Equality approved the draft Programme. The 5th Programme will be presented to Government for approval in the near future.

1.3 The Commission's work and Brexit

The Commission is conscious of the need to take account of the effect of Brexit in carrying out its research work. The Commission's Annual Conference 2018 addressed the theme of "Brexit and Law Reform in Ireland". The speaker's presentations and audio are available on the Commission's website, www.lawreform.ie. The Commission's work in publishing Revised Acts, which are up-to-date administrative consolidations, assists those involved in preparing and drafting legislation, including Brexit-related legislation. The Commission's project to complete a Legislation Directory of Statutory Instruments back to 1973, when the State joined the EU, will be completed by March 2019. This project and the work on Revised Acts forms part of the Commission's Access to Legislation research (see Heading 3, below).

2. The Commission's work: Law Reform Reports/Draft Bills and Making Legislation Accessible for All

The Commission's research work falls under two inter-connected general headings:

- (a) ***Publishing Recommendations for Law Reform, which include draft Bills to facilitate debate and implementation.*** The Commission's Reports contain detailed and independent analysis of areas of law that may need reform for a modern Ireland. They also include draft Bills which assist policy makers, the Government and members of the Oireachtas in deciding whether the reforms proposed should be implemented in enacted legislation. The Commission's work is carried out primarily under a Programme of Law Reform (currently, its *4th Programme of Law Reform*; and as noted above the draft 5th Programme is likely to be before Government for approval in the near future) and also from specific requests by the Attorney General (the Commission's 2013 *Report on Mandatory Sentences* arose from such a request). Currently (January 2019) the Commission has either begun or completed all the remaining projects from the *4th Programme of Law Reform* (2 of the 11 having been overtaken by events since 2013) and on 2 requests from the Attorney General (the details are at paragraph 4.1, below). All the Commission's consultative papers and Reports (over 200 in total) are available online free on the Commission's website, www.lawreform.ie.
- (b) ***Access to Legislation Project, which makes Legislation More Accessible Online for Citizens, Businesses and State Bodies.*** The Commission's work on making legislation more accessible includes:
- (i) the maintenance and development of the Legislation Directory, a searchable guide to all amendments made to all in-force Acts (whether pre-1922 or post-1922), and to Statutory Instruments made since 1978 (available online on the electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB));
 - (ii) the online publication of over 350 Revised Acts (administrative consolidations of Acts as amended) and their maintenance up to date (available on the Commission's website); and
 - (iii) the online publication and ongoing maintenance of a Classified List of In-Force Acts and In-Force Statutory Instruments in Ireland: this list contains over 2,000 In-Force Acts and over 15,000 In-Force Statutory Instruments classified under 36 subject headings, with each Act and Statutory Instrument linked to its relevant Government Department (the list is also available on the Commission's website and was developed and is maintained in consultation with Government Departments).

About 70% of the Commission's Reports have contributed in a significant way to the development and enactment of reforming legislation. Commission Reports usually include draft Bills and these are of assistance in the preparation of legislation. The comprehensive analysis in Commission Reports is often cited and discussed in Oireachtas debates in order to explain the thinking behind proposed reforms.

3. Strategy Statement 2018-2020 and Work Programme in 2017-2018.

The Commission's *Strategy Statement 2018-2020* (which replaced its *Strategy Statement 2016-2018*) is available on the Commission's website, www.lawreform.ie and provides the framework for the Commission's annual work programmes. These are also described in the Commission's Annual Reports.

3.1 Programmes of Law Reform and Attorney General Requests: Work Programme in 2017-2018

The 11 projects in the Commission's 4th *Programme of Law Reform*, as approved by Government in October 2013, are (the state of completion of each project is in brackets, the details of which are set out below):

1. Regulatory powers and corporate offences (project completed).
2. Disclosure and discovery in criminal cases (project completed).
3. Sexual offences involving children (overtaken since 2013).
4. Contempt of court and other offences and torts involving the administration of justice (Issues Paper published).
5. Suspended sentences (Issues Paper published).
6. Harmful Communications and Digital Safety (project completed).
7. Aspects of succession law (project completed in 2 modules).
8. Compulsory acquisition of land (Issues Paper published).
9. Landlord and tenant law for residential tenancies (overtaken since 2013).
10. Domestic implementation of international obligations (Draft Inventory published).
11. Accessibility, Consolidation and Online Publication of Legislation (Issues Paper published).

Since 2013, 2 projects in the 4th *Programme of Law Reform* have been overtaken by, respectively, the enactment of the *Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017* (Project 3) and by the enactment of the *Planning (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016* and related Government initiatives (Project 9). The Commission, to avoid unnecessary duplication of resources, does not engage in a project where another body is actively engaged in the area.

By 2017-2018, the Commission had begun or completed work on all 9 of the remaining projects in the 4th *Programme of Law Reform* as well as on 2 requests made by the Attorney General under the 1975 Act (these concern: the mental element of knowledge or belief in rape law, and privilege for court reports under the *Defamation Act 2009*).

The Commission's law reform outputs in 2017-2018 were:

1. *Report on Section 117 of the Succession Act 1965: Aspects of Provision for Children* (LRC 118-2017) (4th Programme, Project 7, module 2).
2. *Issues Paper on Suspended Sentences* (LRC IP 12-2017) (4th Programme, Project 5).
3. *Issues Paper on Compulsory Acquisition of Land* (LRC IP 13-2017) (4th Programme, Project 8).
4. *Report on Regulatory Powers and Corporate Offences* (LRC 119-2018, in 2 volumes) (4th Programme, Project 1).
5. *Draft Inventory of International Agreements* (LRC IP 14-2018) (4th Programme, Project 10, module 1).

6. *Issues Paper on Knowledge or Belief as to Consent in Rape* (LRC IP 15-2018) (Attorney General request).
7. *Issues Paper on Immunity for Court Reports under the Defamation Act 2009* (LRC IP 16-2018) (Attorney General request).

For information, the Commission's work outputs on the other projects in the 4th Programme from 2014-2017 (and on the remaining projects from its 3rd Programme) were:

1. *Issues Paper on Search Warrants* (LRC IP 4-2014) (3rd Programme project).
2. *Issues Paper on Disclosure and Discovery in Criminal Cases* (LRC IP 5-2014) (4th Programme, Project 2).
3. *Issues Paper on Harmful Communications* (LRC IP 6-2014) (4th Programme, Project 6).
4. *Issues Paper on Section 120 of the Succession Act 1965: Benefit from Homicide* (LRC IP 7-2014) (4th Programme, Project 7, module 1).
5. *Report on Disclosure and Discovery in Criminal Cases* (LRC 112-2014) (4th Programme, Project 2).
6. *Report on Consumer Insurance Contracts* (LRC 113-2015) (3rd Programme project).
7. *Report on Prevention of Benefit from Homicide* (LRC 114-2015) (4th Programme, Project 7, module 1).
8. *Report on Search Warrants and Bench Warrants* (LRC 115-2015) (3rd Programme project).
9. *Issues Paper on Regulatory Enforcement and Corporate Offences* (LRC IP 8-2016) (4th Programme, Project 1).
10. *Issues Paper on Section 117 of the Succession Act 1965: Provision for Children in Wills* (LRC IP 9-2016) (4th Programme, Project 7, module 2).
11. *Report on Harmful Communications and Digital Safety* (LRC 116-2016) (4th Programme, Project 6).
12. *Report on Consolidation and Reform of Aspects of the Law of Evidence* (LRC 117-2016) (3 projects in 3rd Programme, and marking completion of work on the 3rd Programme of Law Reform).
13. *Issues Paper on Contempt of Court and Other Offences and Torts Involving the Administration of Justice* (LRC IP 10-2016) (4th Programme, Project 4).
14. *Issues Paper on Accessibility, Consolidation and Online Publication of Legislation* (LRC IP 11-2016) (4th Programme, Project 11).

The Commission's current law reform work (January 2019) includes:

1. 4th Programme, Project 4: contempt of court and other offences and torts involving the administration of justice. Issues Paper published in 2016. The Commission decided to divide this project into 2 modules on which separate Reports will be published on: (a) Contempt of Court (Report scheduled to be published in 2019); and (b) Maintenance, Champerty and Litigation Funding (Report scheduled to be published in 2020).
2. 4th Programme, Project 5: suspended sentences. Issues Paper published in 2017. Report scheduled to be published in 2019.
3. 4th Programme, Project 8: compulsory acquisition of land. Issues Paper published in 2017. Report scheduled to be published in 2020.
4. 4th Programme, Project 10: domestic implementation of international obligations. The Commission decided to divide this project into 2 modules on which separate documents would be published: (a) Draft Inventory of International Obligations published in 2018; and (b) Final Discussion Paper to be published in 2019.

5. 4th Programme, Project 11: accessibility, consolidation and online publication of legislation. Issues Paper published in 2016. Report scheduled to be published in 2019.
6. Attorney General request on knowledge or belief as to consent in rape law. Issues Paper published in 2018. Report scheduled to be published in 2019.
7. Attorney General request on privilege for court reports under the *Defamation Act 2009*. Issues Paper published in 2018. Report scheduled to be published in 2019.
8. Draft 5th Programme of Law Reform: Report on 5th Programme of Law Reform to be published in 2019 if and when approved by Government in accordance with the 1975 Act. The Commission has also begun exploratory scoping work on some projects in the draft 5th Programme of Law Reform.

3.2 Access to Legislation Research Work: Work Programme in 2017-2018

The Commission's *Access to Legislation* project produces three main outputs: the Legislation Directory, the Classified List of In-Force Legislation and Revised Acts.

The Commission's *Access to Legislation* work, which began in 2006 arising from requests from the Government and from the Office of the Attorney General, comprises 3 related elements, the Legislation Directory, Revised Acts and the Classified List of In-Force Legislation.

3.2.1 Legislation Directory

The first element of the Commission's work on Access to Legislation is the Legislation Directory, which consists of a list of all amendments to all Acts of the Oireachtas that remain in force (over 2,000) and all pre-1922 Acts that remain in force (over 1,100). The Legislation Directory is of vital importance to allow users of legislation to trace how legislation has been amended. The Legislation Directory is published on the electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB), www.irishstatutebook.ie, which is maintained by the Office of the Attorney General.

Since 2017 (and continuing), the Commission usually updates the Legislation Directory every week where new legislative material is available.

The full text of all Acts of the Oireachtas as they were enacted is available on the eISB and the entry for each Act on the eISB contains a link to a related table, previously separately published online as the Legislation Directory. The Legislation Directory tables for Acts enacted since 1978 (note: the Commission has been gradually working back year by year since 2006) includes information on: (a) commencement of the Act, (b) secondary legislation (for example Regulations) made under the Act and (c) amendments to the Act.

The Commission started work on developing a corresponding Legislation Directory for statutory instruments when it took responsibility from 2006 for the maintenance of the Legislation Directory. The Legislation Directory for statutory instruments, now also available on the eISB, is not comprehensive: until recently (see next paragraph) it contained information only in respect of statutory instruments made from 1996 onwards (including amendments made since 1996 to pre-1997 statutory instruments).

In 2016, the Commission (with the support of the Attorney General) made a business case to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, which the Department approved, for additional targeted resources, for a time-bound 2 year period, to extend the Legislation Directory for statutory instruments back to 1972, when statutory instruments began to be made

under section 3 of the *European Communities Act 1972* arising from the State's membership of the EU. These statutory instruments can amend Acts, as well as introduce statutory provisions that would otherwise have required Acts, and therefore constitute extremely significant statutory provisions. The extension of the Legislation Directory for statutory instruments back to 1972 will therefore provide a comprehensive tracking of all EU-related statutory instruments, including which of them remains in force.

In 2017, after a publicly advertised recruitment process for a project manager and researchers for this project, work began on the project in April 2017. The project has proceeded to schedule since 2017. As of January 2019, the project team had completed uploading the relevant entries back to 1978, and is therefore scheduled to be completed in March 2019.

3.2.2 Revised Acts (Acts-as amended)

The second element of the Commission's work on Access to Legislation concerns Revised Acts, which are administrative consolidations of Acts, or "Acts-as-amended." From a standing start in 2008, there are currently (January 2019) over 350 Acts-as-amended available on the Commission's website at <http://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/revacts/intro>. In 2008, when the Commission published its first programme of work in this area, a group of over 100 pre-2006 Acts was selected for publishing in Revised Act form on the basis of a consultative process based on a number of criteria: (a) whether the Act is in frequent use; (b) whether it was previously easily accessible to the public; and (c) whether the Revised Act might ease the regulatory burden on business. In addition, all textually amended Acts from 2005 onwards, other than Finance and Social Welfare Acts, are published in Revised Act form as they are amended.

Since January 2017, direct links are available on the eISB from the text of an Act as enacted by the Oireachtas to the text of the Revised Act, the Act as amended, where this is available. For example, the link on the eISB from the *Personal Insolvency Act 2012* to the Revised Act version is: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2012/act/44/enacted/en/html>. The 2012 Act has been amended many times since it was originally enacted in 2012, and having available the Revised Act version is of high importance. The value of Revised Acts is recognised by the Insolvency Service of Ireland, which provides a link from the Legislation page on its website to the Commission's Revised Act of the 2012 Act; and the Revised Act of the *Bankruptcy Act 1988*, which has also been substantially amended, especially since 2012: see <http://isi.gov.ie/en/ISI/Pages/Legislation>.

3.2.3 Classified List of In-Force Acts and Statutory Instruments

The third element of this Access to Legislation work is the Classified List of In-Force Acts and Statutory Instruments. This comprises a complete list of over 2,000 Acts of the Oireachtas that remain in force (and over 100 significant pre-1922 Acts that remain in force), and is published on the Commission's website, www.lawreform.ie. The Acts have been organised under 36 general subject-matter headings, with each Act identified with its relevant Government Department. The headings take account of: (a) some near-universal and conventional headings, such as *Civil Liability*, *Commercial Law*, *Criminal Law* and *Taxation*; (b) areas of responsibility of Government Departments in Ireland; (c) headings unique to Ireland, such as Heading 21, Irish Language and Gaeltacht; and (d) headings used in comparable classified compilations in other Common Law countries, notably the United States of America (both at federal and state level).

The *Classified List* derives from the Commission's general statutory mandate in the *Law Reform Commission Act 1975* to keep the law under review, and from its participation in the eLegislation Group (Department of the Taoiseach). The Classified List is maintained up to date. In 2016 the Commission published the first draft Classified List of In-Force Legislation that incorporates a working draft of in-force statutory instruments (consisting of a list of just over 15,000 in-force statutory instruments: over 36,000 have been made since 1922). In 2017 and 2018 the Classified List was updated. In 2019, the Commission intends to publish an updated, searchable, version, with hyperlinks to the full text of in-force Acts and statutory instruments.

END