

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



12 November 2021

Mr Sam Keenan
Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2
D02 A272

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (Vote 29)
Ref: S0582 PAC33

Dear Mr Keenan,

I refer to your letter dated 21 October following my appearance before the Public Accounts Committee on 14 October 2021 in relation to the Department's 2020 Appropriation Account and related matters.

The information requested in the aforementioned letter is set out in the attachment. Please note the content of this letter contains sensitive information relating to the operations of the National Cyber Security Centre which is being provided to Committee Members on a confidential basis. Accordingly, the information contained on page 1 of the attachment must be redacted prior to any release or publication of this correspondence.

Should you require any clarification or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Catherine McGinty in my Department, by email at Catherine.McGinty@DECC.gov.ie or by phone at (01) 6782423.

Finally, I refer to the comments of the Chair at the Committee's meeting on the afternoon of 14 October (after the Department had concluded its engagement with the Committee) specific to the NBP Programme Directors' attendance. I can assure the Committee that the taking of the Programme Directors' evidence by way of remote connection from his home accorded fully with the parameters of the Committee's invitation dated 30 September, 2021. Indeed, I might add that there were specific cogent reasons as to why the NBP Programme Director could only attend from his own home. In addition by way of assistance, I provided my mobile number to the PAC Secretariat a number weeks back for onward transmission to the Chair so that I could explain those circumstances to him.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Griffin
Secretary General

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A list of the 20 actions that are required to be delivered in Ireland over the period of the National Cyber Security Strategy in order for the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) to be considered fit for purpose

The *National Cyber Security Strategy 2019-2024*¹ sets out in detail the actions to be implemented by the NCSC and its partner organisations and associated milestones in furtherance of the Strategy's objectives, which are as follows:

- To continue to improve the ability of the State to respond to and manage cyber security incidents, including those with a national security component.
- To identify and protect critical national infrastructure by increasing its resilience to cyber-attack and by ensuring that operators of essential services have appropriate incident response plans in place to reduce and manage any disruption to services.
- To improve the resilience and security of public sector IT systems to better protect services that our people rely upon, and their data.
- To invest in educational initiatives to prepare the workforce for advanced IT and cybersecurity careers.
- To raise awareness of the responsibilities of businesses around securing their networks, devices and information and to drive research and development in cyber security in Ireland, including by facilitating investment in new technology.
- To continue to engage with international partners and international organisations to ensure that cyber space remains open, secure, unitary and free and able to facilitate economic and social development.
- To increase the general level of skills and awareness among private individuals around basic cyber hygiene practices and to support them in this by means of information and training.

The implementation of the Strategy is overseen by an Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) chaired by the Assistant Secretary for Communications in the Department of the Environment, Climate And Communications (DECC), which meets quarterly to review progress. The most recent IDC meeting took place on 7 September 2021.

In addition to the measures outlined in the National Cyber Security Strategy, the NCSC Capacity Review conducted earlier this year made a number of recommendations to enhance the capability of the NCSC and to support the delivery of the Strategy. The Capacity Review acknowledged that the NCSC had developed significant capability in a relatively short time period, and is fully equipped to discharge its functions as set out in the 2015 National Cyber Security Strategy: *"... to lead in the management of major cyber security incidents, provide guidance and advice to citizens and businesses, and manage cyber security related risks to key services"*.

The attached Executive Summary provides an overview of the findings and recommendations. In July, the Government accepted the Capacity Review's recommendations and agreed a number of actions including the sanction of an additional 20 staff to be appointed by the end of 2022. The Government also agreed that the IDC on the National Cyber Security Strategy would oversee progress on implementing the recommendations of the Capacity Review. Progress is already underway to

¹ <https://www.ncsc.gov.ie/strategy/>

implement many of the recommendations; for instance the recruitment process for the NCSC Director commenced in September. A draft action plan has been prepared setting out milestones and targets for implementation of the Capacity Review and the Government's response to it.

National Broadband Plan

An update on the annual cost for the advisers retained by the Department to review and oversee the National Broadband Plan project.

Robust oversight and governance of the and governance €2.7 billion National Broadband Plan (NBP) contract by a properly resourced and appropriately experienced multi-disciplinary team will be critical to ensuring that project is delivered on time and within budget.

The NBP Team in the Department is supported by external experts and advisers to assist with the management and governance of the contract. The Department ran a number of procurements, in 2019/2020, to appoint new advisers to provide technical, commercial, financial and legal support. These tenders were carried out in accordance with public procurement guidelines. The outcome of these procurements was the appointment of Ernst & Young as commercial and financial advisers, William Fry as legal advisers and Analysys Mason were re-appointed as technical advisers. Contracts are in place with these firms until 2022 and these contracts can be extended, as provided for in the contracts, at the Departments discretion.

Expenditure by year to date on external advisors since commencement of procurement is set out at Appendix 1. This includes expenditure on external advisors engaged during the NBP procurement process, up to contract award (Table 1) and those engaged on contract management, post contract award (Table 2).

The proportion of existing fibre assets that are currently being underutilised or not utilised.

DECC has made enquiries into ComReg on this particular query. Fibre usage is not monitored national by DECC or ComReg. However, ComReg does monitor fibre network capacity and integrity and periodically undertakes market reviews including the availability of backhaul services.

With regard to the NBP, NBI are tasked with reusing infrastructure as much as is feasible which is a sustainable approach which saves time and ensures value for money. It is anticipated that the NBI network will consist of a total of 140,000km of fibre cable, over 1.5 million poles and over 15,000 kilometres of underground duct networks for fibre cable. Existing overhead poles and lines will be used where possible to lay/hang the new fibre cables. It is forecast that only 12% of the project will be new build as designs will utilise existing infrastructure to a very significant degree; this approach is consistent with State Aid requirements.

A note outlining how the targets for National Broadband Ireland, in relation to the delivery of the National Broadband Plan, were recalculated, including:

- **details of the original targets,**
- **the extent to which those targets will not be achieved, and**

- **the efforts being made to catch up on the targets.**

The target in the NBP contract for the number of premises to be passed by the end year two of the contract (31 January 2022) was **115,000** premises.

Earlier this year, NBI submitted an interim remedial plan to the Department addressing delays primarily related to COVID-19. The Department, supported by its expert advisers undertook a thorough analysis of the interim remedial plan submitted by NBI and having concluded its assessment a revised target of **60,000** premises was agreed and contractualised, as is provided for under the contract.

Certain legacy issues resulting from Covid-19 will continue to impact the contracted targets for 2022 which means that it is necessary to develop a further remedial plan for 2022. The Department expects NBI to submit this plan very shortly. Any decision to agree a contractual re-baselining of milestones for 2022, will be informed by the Department's detailed analysis of this plan.

Measures by NBI to address the delays to the rollout of the NBP network

NBI is implementing measures to help lessen the impact that delays have had on the rollout. Such measures include

- Increasing the rate of pole replacement and duct remediation per month,
- Bringing in additional NBI and sub-contractor resources – almost 1,200 directly involved in the Project,
- Earlier procurement of materials used in the build stages,

It should also be noted that Government and NBI have agreed to accelerate the rollout of high-speed broadband to 679 primary schools across the State by the end of 2022, ensuring that by that time all schools across the State will have the necessary infrastructure to carry out their critical day to day educational activities unimpeded by poor broadband.

In parallel with the ongoing oversight of the contract with NBI, the Department has also been working with the 31 Local Authorities, the County and City Management Agency (CCMA), the Road Management Office (RMO), Broadband Officers and other Government Departments, where appropriate, to ensure that any possible barriers that might delay the rollout are addressed as soon as possible. This also includes engagement with other bodies such as Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Irish Rail and ComReg.

A note outlining any issues of concern that have been identified or disclosed to ComReg by the Department in relation to work being carried out by National Broadband Ireland on the National Broadband Plan.

In relation to the NBP, the Department has a signed Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) with ComReg and have a dedicated point of contact in ComReg. The MoU covers collaboration between the Minister and ComReg, an expert group and its functions, requests for technical advice and requests relating to the NBP Contract.

To date, the Department has sought advice from ComReg in relation to the NBP specifically with regards to Regulated Wholesale Products and future proposed Wholesale Products from NBI.

Just Transition Fund

A list of the 45 projects funded by the Just Transition Fund

The National Just Transition Fund (JTF) is a key pillar of the Government's plan for the Midlands region. A fund was made available in 2020 to support communities transitioning to a low carbon economy with a focus on retraining workers and generating sustainable employment in green enterprise across the region. The call for applications for the JTF closed on 17 July 2020.

A total 46 JTF projects have entered into contracts. The total value of projects approved is approximately €18.8 million, with €15.1 million in grant funding.

The list of projects approved under the JTF is attached at Appendix 2 to this letter and can also be found on the Departments website at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ed10d-just-transition-fund/>.

Waste Management

An update on the progress of carrying out the commitment, under the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy, for the universal roll-out of brown compost bins.

Under the European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations 2015, household waste collectors are required to provide, or arrange for the provision of, a separate collection service for food waste for all households situated in population agglomerations of greater than 500 persons.

The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy, published in September 2020, contains some 200 measures which will be delivered on a phased basis over the 5 year lifetime of the Plan, including a number of specific measures which will support the expansion of the brown bin service to all households in the State, including:

- Continuing to commit resources nationally to the prevention of food waste and to the regulation of optimal food waste collection and treatment practices;
- Making the provision of an organic waste bin mandatory as part of a waste collection service for all households;
- Through changes to waste collection permits, and working with the Local Authority sector, ensuring that every householder and business has access to a reliable, clean and sustainable way of managing food waste;
- Working to improve waste segregation in the commercial sector, including an awareness campaign and enforcement actions requiring segregated bins and incentivised charging to ensure waste minimisation and proper segregation;
- Using National Waste Collection Permit Office and other 'brown bin' data to develop strategies and investigate how new technology can support greater usage.

Department officials have already commenced the process of engaging with the key stakeholders, including the waste collection industry, with a view to delivering on these commitments in as short a time frame as possible.

The lifespan of the Drehid, Knockharley and Ballynagran landfills.

The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices have provided the following information in relation to the three remaining authorised municipal waste landfill facilities in the State.

- Drehid Landfill, Carbury, Co. Kildare, has sufficient capacity remaining to allow it to operate for another 3 and a half years approximately. However the operator is currently preparing a new planning application, which if approved would allow it to operate for approximately 35 years.
- Ballynagran Landfill, Ballynagran, Co. Wicklow has planning permission to operate until the end of 2026.
- Knockharley Landfill, Knockharley, Co. Meath currently has sufficient capacity to operate for another 8 years but the operator has noted that there is additional land available to it which would allow it to continue to operate beyond this period, subject to appropriate authorisations.

Emissions Trading System

A breakdown of how the figure listed in the Department’s 2020 Appropriation Account under item 4.3 ‘Extra receipts payable to the Exchequer’ was compiled.

Note 4.3 in the Departments Account relates to Extra Exchequer Receipts. These are receipts received by the Department but have no direct connection with Voted expenditure and include items such as proceeds from sales of property, compensation, dividends and capital repayments. Extra Exchequer Receipts must be credited directly to the Exchequer and cannot be retained by Departments as Appropriations-in-Aid.

The Department received just over €123 million in Extra Exchequer Receipts in 2021 as shown in the table below.

Extra Exchequer Receipts	€000
Receipts from the Emissions Trading Scheme	122,781
Galway Mayo Telecommunications duct	193
Sale of shares – National Digital Research Centre	152
Voluntary surrender of Ministerial salaries	29
Total receipts received in 2020	123,155
Plus: Receipts from fines on breaches of emissions trading (received in late 2019 and transferred in 2020)	261
Less: Sale of shares – National Digital Research Centre (received in late 2020 and transferred in 2021)	(152)
Total receipts transferred to Exchequer in 2020	123,264

Information on how the process works in terms of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discharging its function in the area of the Emissions Trading System.

The EPA is designated as the Competent Authority for administration of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).

As such, the EPA is responsible for the implementation of the EU ETS rules governing the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from the relevant activities. The operators of the prescribed activities are required to surrender allowances annually against their emissions and this is done through the Union Registry.

The EPA assesses permit applications and the proposed monitoring and reporting plans for compliance of operators covered within the EU rules and guidance documents. Operators are required to have their annual emission reports verified by an accredited third-party verifier, and the EPA checks the annual reports to see that they are compliant with the Monitoring and Reporting Regulation. The EPA visits the installations when they first apply for a permit and at periodic intervals thereafter.

The EPA reports annually to the EU Commission on the implementation of the EU ETS.

The level of receipts the Department has secured over the last number of years and how they are notionally allocated, and whether hedgerows are included in the allocation

The table below shows both the gross and net ETS receipts received during the period 2013 – 2020.

Year	Gross Receipts €m	Admin Fee (EPA) €m	Net Receipts €m
2020	124.52	1.76	122.78
2019	124.23	1.46	122.77
2018	142.07	1.26	140.81
2017	53.56	1.26	52.30
2016	40.13	1.16	38.97
2015	53.46	1.28	52.18
2014	35.98	1.14	34.84
2013	41.68	1.23	40.45
	615.63	10.55	605.10

Application of Receipts

While Ireland does not formally ring-fence ETS auction revenues for specific purposes, amounts equivalent to 100% of such revenue (less administration costs) in each year have been attributed to emission reduction activities and are set out in the table below. There has been no notional attribution for hedgerows from ETS revenues.

€ms	2013 €m	2014 €m	2015 €m	2016 €m	2017 €m	2018 €m	2019 €m	2020 €m	Total €m
SEAI Better Energy	15.48	-	20.01	13.30	52.30	-	-	-	101.09
Afforestation	24.97	-	32.17	25.67	-	-	-	-	82.81
Energy Research & Development	-	0.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.70
Ocean Energy	-	0.61	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.61
Supporting Developing Countries	-	33.54	-	-	-	-	-	-	33.54
School Transport	-	-	-	-	-	108.58	94.53	92.08	259.19
Climate Finance	-	-	-	-	-	32.23	28.24	30.69	91.16
ETS Administration	1.23	1.13	1.28	1.16	1.26	1.26	1.46	1.75	10.53
Receipts	41.68	35.98	53.46	40.13	53.56	142.07	124.23	124.52	615.63

Energy Security

The date of the last time the State had an electricity blackout because of an inability to meet demand, and whether the electricity supply met demand throughout the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

The Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (the CRU) has statutory responsibility to monitor and take measures necessary to ensure the security of electricity supply in Ireland. The CRU is assisted in its statutory role by EirGrid, the electricity transmission system operator.

The Department is advised by EirGrid and ESB Networks that the last time electricity was disconnected due to inability to meet demand was in April 1991, and prior to that in 1987, both instances stemming from Industrial Relations disputes, which led to insufficient generation being available. There are recorded instances of demand disconnection being required due to industrial relations disputes impacting on generation plant availability in the 1970's and 1960's.

Ordinarily there is always enough "reserve" (headroom) on the system to cater for the loss of the largest generator on the power system at a given time while ensuring customer demand is not disconnected. Sometimes, even when there are sufficient reserves, they might not work as expected creating a short-lived supply demand imbalance and this can result in usually short-lived temporary disconnections of customers at the transmission or distribution level, which are normally automatically reconnected in minutes. These events were common in the past, but with the advent of fast reliable reserves (including battery storage), and improved performance of generators to respond to these events they are now less common. Events which may trigger such disconnections of customers do not necessarily signal a wider capacity shortage on the system, rather usually a momentary period where reserves were short or did not deliver as expected to.

Sustainable Energy Programmes

A note providing information on the following:

- a synopsis of the schemes operated by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) available to households – including but not limited to the Better Energy Homes Scheme, the Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme, and the National Home Retrofit Scheme

Better Energy Homes Scheme

The Better Energy Homes Scheme provides grants to private homeowners who wish to improve the energy performance of their home. Landlords can also apply for a grant under the scheme. The Better Energy Homes Scheme has enabled homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes resulting in warmer, healthier and more comfortable homes that are easier and cheaper to heat and light.

Under the scheme grants are available for:

- Insulation
- Heating controls
- Heat pumps
- Solar thermal hot water heating systems.

To be eligible for the scheme, a home must have been built and occupied before 2006 for insulation/heating controls grants and 2011 for a renewable heating system grant.

Grants typically cover 30% of the total investment cost of carrying out these works in a home. To encourage deeper retrofits, a bonus of €300 is payable when 3 qualifying measures are completed and a further €100 is payable on completion of a 4th measure.

Process:

- Visit <https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/individual-grants/> and choose your energy upgrade and grant
- Select your SEAI registered contractor – registered contractors can be found at <https://hes.seai.ie/GrantProcess/ContractorSearch.aspx>
- Submit your grant application – grants must be approved by SEAI before works on your home can commence
- Complete works – up to 8 months to complete works and claim grant
- Submit your grant payment request – wait 4 – 6 weeks for payment

The National Home Retrofit Scheme

The National Home Retrofit Scheme (One Stop Shop Development Call) opened at the end of September 2020 with an allocation of €21.5 million. This scheme is designed to encourage the development of One-Stop-Shops and engage groups of private households, registered Housing Associations and Local Authorities who wish to participate in delivering energy efficiency upgrades, specifically in domestic buildings. The scheme is facilitating larger, more efficient aggregated projects. The scheme is designed to have two key benefits – to facilitate the retrofit sector becoming

a year-round industry and to grow the supply side, and, by helping to facilitate a much longer retrofit works window, support more retrofit activity.

One Stop Shops offer homeowners all the services required for a complete home energy upgrade to a minimum of a B2 BER. These registered private operators will manage the entire process, from the initial assessment of homes, through to the final BER.

One Stop Shops offer a complete range of services including:

- Home energy assessment – a technical surveyor advises on the best upgrades to bring the home to a B2 energy rating or higher
- Grant application – the chosen One Stop Shop will apply for and accept all SEAI grants for the project and deduct the values upfront from the cost of the works
- Project management – the One Stop Shop manages all of the works at the home and ensure quality checks are carried out
- Contractor works – the One Stop Shop will assign a contractor to carry out the works on the home
- Follow up BER – a registered BER Assessor will complete a post-works BER assessment and publish the certificate
- Finance options – Some One Stop Shops can offer finance options through their finance partners

One Stop Shops are available to anyone who meets the following criteria:

- Was built and occupied before 2006 for insulation and heating controls
- Was built and occupied before 2011 for renewable systems grants
- Has an existing BER of C2 or lower and must achieve a minimum rating of B2 on completion of works
- Has not previously received grants for the same home energy upgrades

The application process is set out at <https://www.seai.ie/grants/national-home-retrofit/one-stop-shops/>

Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme

The Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme delivers a range of energy efficiency measures free of charge to low-income households vulnerable to energy poverty.

Free energy upgrades are available to those :

- Who own and live in the home;
- Whose home was built and occupied before 2006;
- Who are in receipt of one of the following welfare payments:
 - Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme
 - Job Seekers Allowance for over six months and have a child under seven years of age
 - Working Family Payment
 - One-Parent Family Payment
 - Domiciliary Care Allowance
 - Carers Allowance and live with the person you are caring for

- Who have not previously received works under the scheme.

Process:

- Apply to SEAI who will then verify eligibility – application forms are available at <https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/free-upgrades-for-eligible-homes/>
- Once approved, an SEAI surveyor surveys the home to make upgrade recommendations
- A contractor is appointed from SEAI’s panel to carry out the upgrade works
- After the works are completed the SEAI energy assessment team will carry out a Building Energy Rating (BER) assessment. There may also be quality inspections.

To date, over 143,000 homes have received free upgrades under the scheme.

Solar PV

SEAI administers the grant scheme to help homeowners install solar PV panels on their home. The scheme was launched in July 2018. The table below outlines the scheme statistics for each year. Figures for 2021 are as at 30 September 2021.

Year	No. of homes	Value of support (€)	MW installed	Co2 saved (tonnes)
2018	71	125,350	0.2	53
2019	1,820	4,266,405	6.1	1,609
2020	2,916	7,353,320	10.8	2,838
2021 (ytd)	2,328	5,333,218	9.1	2,390
Total	7,135	17,260,293	26.2	6,890

Communities Energy Grant Scheme

The Communities Energy Grant Scheme (CEG - previously known as the Better Energy Communities Scheme) funds community-based partnerships to improve the energy efficiency of the building stock in their area – homes, community facilities and businesses. It also encourages innovative measures and solutions. These partnerships can be between the public and private sectors, domestic and non-domestic sectors, commercial and not-for-profit organisations and energy suppliers, and leverage considerable additional private investment. Recognising the demand and to support national retrofit objectives a further enhanced round of the scheme, was launched in November 2020.

This year the scheme attracted 39 projects including 616 homes and 536 non-domestic projects covering public sector buildings, sports facilities, community buildings and businesses. The grant investment is supporting energy project works which will amount to up to €100m with energy savings of 79MW. A new call for CEG projects for 2022 will issue from the SEAI in quarter 4 of 2021.

- The projected spend in 2021 in each case

SEAI Scheme	2021 Budget €m	2021 Forecast Outturn €m
Better Energy Homes	37.100	18.400
Area based Communities Housing Scheme - One Stop Shop (National Home Retrofit Scheme)	21.500	14.600
Better Energy Warmer Homes	100.000	50.000
Better Energy Warmth & Wellbeing	9.000	4.700
Solar PV	8.000	8.600
Deep Retrofit	3.400	2.800
Communities Energy Grant Scheme	30.000	26.600

It is important to note that SEAI supported retrofit was negatively impacted by COVID-19 throughout 2021, particularly between January and April when activity was fully paused in line with Government guidelines.

Appendix 1 – Expenditure on NBP Advisory Services

Table 1: Expenditure on NBP Procurement Advisory Services

Company	Nature of Advisory service	Expenditure € (Excluding VAT)					Total Expenditure (Incl VAT)
		2016	2017	2018	2019 (to November)	Total	
Achilles Procurement Services	Procurement	0	4,200	0	0	4,200	5,166
Analysys Mason	Technical	448,901	1,058,977	1,131,719	796,216	3,435,813	4,230,826
Deloitte Ireland LLP	Tax and VAT	4,400	13,200	42,900	39,125	99,625	122,539
Here & Now Business Intelligence	Communications	6,000	4,800	13,200	0	24,000	29,520
KPMG	Financial and procurement and specialist personnel	893,184	3,884,371	3,837,997	1,228,425	9,843,977	12,114,278
Independent contractor	Communications	0	3,500	0	0	3,500	4,305
Marsh Ireland Ltd.	Insurance	0	0	9,375	55,100	64,475	79,304
Mason Hayes & Curran	Legal	371,143	2,444,404	1,245,094	1,128,458	5,189,099	6,368,283
MON Legal Consulting	Legal	0	0	0	3,330	3,330	4,096
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Economic and strategic advice	116,379	617,827	380,088	0	1,114,294	1,370,582
Prisa Consulting	Technical, commercial, economic, financial and procurement	9,000	0	0	0	9,000	11,070
Independent contractor	Telecommunications regulatory advice	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	6,150
RPS Consulting Engineers	Environmental	22,205	35,114	25,175	23,919	106,413	130,888
TOTAL		1,871,211	8,066,392	6,690,548	3,274,573	19,902,726	24,477,007

Table 2: Expenditure on NBP Contract Management Advisory Services

Company	Expenditure € (excluding VAT)					Total (Incl VAT)
	Nature of Advisory service	2019 (From December)	2020	2021 (to 8 November)	Total	
Analysys Mason	Technical	226,191	2,150,211	2,222,115	4,598,517	5,633,788
Deloitte Ireland LLP	Tax and VAT	0	11,950	0	11,950	14,699
Ernst & Young Business Advisory Services	Commercial and financial	0	2,003,819	3,650,098	5,653,917	6,223,379
KPMG	Financial and procurement and specialist personnel	1,023,938	1,151,975	0	2,175,913	2,676,373
Marsh Ireland Ltd.	Insurance	0	19,738	0	19,738	24,278
Mason Hayes & Curran	Legal	0	1,689,750	0	1,689,750	2,064,081
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Economic and strategic advice	396,420	0	0	396,420	465,297
William Fry	Legal	0	244,659	559,672	804,331	910,437
TOTAL		1,646,549	7,272,102	6,431,885	15,350,536	18,012,332

Appendix 2 – Just Transition Fund projects

Category 1 – Business Development

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Project Summary	Grant Amount €
59: Ferbane Food Campus and Innovation Centre	Ferbane Business and Technology Park CLG	Offaly	Project involves the refurbishment and modifying the current 465 square metres building internally to create necessary space to facilitate existing tenants in employing required additional staff. Converting the vacated area into a fully serviced co-working workspace with super-fast broadband to facilitate remote working. Provide facilities for 3 additional food producer companies	595,000
80: Promoting the Midlands: Digital Platform & Events	Laois County Council	Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath	Develop a 'destination platform' promoting the Midlands as a destination of choice to live, work and invest through Midlands Ireland.ie	998,750
94: Mide: Feasibility Study (Strand 1 project)	Enterprise Ireland	Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Westmeath	A feasibility study on creating niche malt products for brewing artisan beer from the midlands region, with Bord na Mona being employed in the process as a result	59,500
104: Rhode Green Energy Park Completion Works & Renewable Energy Feasibility Study	Offaly County Council	Offaly	Will carry out infrastructure works to complete Rhode Green Energy Park and complete a Feasibility Study entitled "Exploring Data Centre Integration with Renewable Energy and Green Hydrogen in the Midlands"	738,820
105: North Kildare Business and Learning Campus: Site Expansion Works	Allenwood Community Development Association CLG	Kildare, Offaly, Laois	This project will carry out site expansion works at an ex Bord na Mona site, Allenwood Green Enterprise Park, to facilitate the establishment of up to 16 new/relocating green manufacturing and service enterprises with potential to create 160 new jobs	782,782
106: Additional Enterprise & Office Space in Tullamore	Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG	Offaly	Project will increase Tullamore's economic potential by having the necessary landing space, and planning in place for second site development for FDI and enterprises expanding into Offaly	476,000

Category 2 – Education, Training & Upskilling

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Project Summary	Grant Amount €
118: Developing a New Digital Learning Hub in Longford	Longford Westmeath Education & Training Board	Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath	The funding will be used to renovate a building located on the LWETB Longford Campus to develop a purpose built Further Education and Training Digital Learning Hub	1,000,000

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Project Summary	Grant Amount €
122: Building Resilience and Adaptability in Primary School Children through STEM	Offaly County Council	Offaly	Extend a current STEM programme to include additional schools in the county. This will allow Offaly County Council to roll out the more advanced VEX Robotics programme to all post primary schools in Offaly	119,000
134: Bord na Mona Employee Supports: Training and Upskilling Project	Bord na Mona	All eight counties	A training and up-skilling project to ensure BnM workers can begin to immediately retrain and up-skill to take up training opportunities. This will assist workers to undertake up-skilling courses and prepare for other career paths and opportunities	590,000
155: Training Workshop (Strand 1 project)	Ballycommon Telework & Training Centre CLG	Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Westmeath	Expansion of the local centre to offer training courses in the areas of horticulture, automation, robotics, home improvements and repairs, solar energy for beginners etc	59,853

Category 3 – Development of Co-Working & Enterprise Hubs

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Project Summary	Grant Amount €
45: Provision of a Remote Working Hub and Training Facility - Moore Community Hall (Strand 1 project)	Moore Community Council	Roscommon	Refurbishment of Moore Community Hall to facilitate the provision of a remote working hub and training facility. This includes the creation of two new rooms in the local hall	55,250
47: Pulse Hub: Creation of a New Remote Working Hub in Ballinasloe Town	Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd	East Galway, Offaly, Roscommon	Project involves the creation of co-working & remote working spaces in Ballinasloe supporting people in East Galway, West Offaly, South Roscommon & Westmeath to work remotely which will be known as Pulse Hubs. This will create a dynamic network to drive enterprise, innovation, start-ups	490,748
54: Conversion of the Harbour Building Kilbeggan to an Enterprise & Community Business Hub	Kilbeggan Grand Canal Harbour Amenity Co Ltd & Westmeath County Council	Offaly, Westmeath	Project will renovate the Harbour Building in Kilbeggan to modernise an existing, under-used facility within the community to provide co-working spaces, enterprise start-up offices, and community meeting spaces, fully insulated to reduce carbon emissions	499,307
73: Kinnegad New Economic Enterprise Hub and Hub Management	Westmeath County Council	Offaly, Westmeath	Leasing, refurbishment and kit out of an under-utilised building for co-working facilities and enterprise space at the Eastwae site in Kinnegad. This facilitate the establishment of up to 25 new/relocating enterprises with potential to create 130 new jobs .	841,657

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Project Summary	Grant Amount €
81: Midlands Network of Co-working Facilities (MNCF) - Business Development Manager	Laois County Council	Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath	Appointment of a Regional Business Development Manager (BDM) to drive the expansion and development of co-working facilities within the region and to explore strategic partnerships for sites in state ownership	199,988
100: Athlone Co-Working Hub (CWH) (Strand 1 project)	Athlone Co-Working Hub (CWH)	East Galway, Longford, Offaly, Roscommon, Westmeath	Feasibility study on the eco-aligned refurbishment of a historic building in Athlone to meet sustainable operation standards including upgrade of technology communications systems to transform the building into a co-working hub, to clarify refurbishment costs and inform a full funding application	77,826

Category 4 - Renewable Energies & Retrofitting

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Summary and Presentation	Grant Amount €
25: Producing and Promoting Green Energy Birr and South West Offaly (Strand 1 project)	Birr 20:20 Vision Company Ltd.	East Galway, North Tipperary, Offaly, Roscommon	Feasibility study for anaerobic digestion and a training course and producer discussion group focused on energy crop production and anaerobic digestion. A training course and follow on producer discussion group focused on energy crop production and anaerobic digestion	81,175
35.63.118: Rhode Green Energy Park Integration & Design Study	Newleaf Energy Ltd.	Offaly, Westmeath	Project involves the completion of a detailed feasibility study. Study will examine the combination of renewable technologies to their current operation and study the overall carbon abatement ability of these new technologies	100,000
36: Alektra - Feasibility Study Stage 2 (Strand 1 project)	Lumcloon Energy Ltd.	Offaly	Feasibility study to identify technologies to build a hydrogen power plant in West Offaly	85,000
38: Lanesboro Anaerobic Digestion Facility – Feasibility Study (Strand 1 project)	Longford County Council	Longford, Roscommon	Feasibility study into the potential establishment of an Anaerobic Digestion facility on lands on the current site of Lough Ree Power	85,000
61: Midlands Retrofit One-Stop-Shop	Superhomes Ireland Ltd	All eight counties	Project will work with 30 contractors to provide a retrofitting service to homeowners in the Midlands Region. Will deliver a minimum of 175 deep retrofits by 2023 and employ engineering, customer service and sales staff in a new regional office	407,576

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Summary and Presentation	Grant Amount €
113: Lough Ree Technology Cluster Study (Strand 1 project)	John Hanley, FDT Consulting Engineers & PM Ltd.	Longford, Roscommon	The study is to investigate how a technology cluster could be established in Lanesborough / Ballyleague, integrated with clean energy sources and a focus on the bioeconomy and integrating enterprises from a circular economy perspective	101,703
130: PolySafe (Strand 1 project)	RR Power Projects Ltd.	Kildare, Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath	Feasibility study into the transferable knowledge from pulp and paper and waste water	84,618
150: Community Led Just Transition North Tipperary: Home Upgrades - Phase 1	Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative CLG	North Tipperary	Project will mobilise community-led energy efficiency in communities affected by peat plant closures. Phase 1 is Animation and Assessment and will involve informing the public, technical assessments, and enlisting household	101,220
159: Edenderry Carbon Challenge: Feasibility Study on Edenderry as a Smart Grid/Green Hub	Edenderry Tidy Towns	All eight counties	As part of the Edenderry Carbon Challenge, industry experts will carry out a feasibility study to explore ways in which Edenderry can become an exemplary Smart Grid/Green Energy Hub by harnessing renewable energy resources, reducing carbon emissions and implementing smart grid technologies	60,439
161: Midlands Bioenergy Development Project	Irish Bioenergy Association	All eight counties	Project will deliver a bioenergy knowledge transfer programme on opportunities in biomass production, biogas production, wood fuel and energy crop processing and production and biochar production and usage. Will link producers, processing business, energy users and investors and includes a mentoring programme for 12 start-ups in the midlands	255,000

Category 5 – Tourism, Heritage & Restoration

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Summary and Presentation	Grant Amount €
15: Geopark & Biosphere Research Study (Strand 1 project)	Green Offaly CLG	Offaly	A research project to explore the potential of Offaly to apply for UNESCO Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserve status	62,730
37.108: Conservation and Pollination - Six Medieval Churches in Laois and Offaly	Laois County Council	Laois, Offaly	Conservation of six medieval churches in Laois and Offaly in collaboration with local communities in each area. One church per Municipal District in each county will be conserved, a total of six sites. There is also a biodiversity element to the project i.e. bee pollinator work	748,000

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Summary and Presentation	Grant Amount €
40.1: Lanesborough Tourism Hub: Feasibility & Design Study	Longford County Council	Longford	Project involves exploring options for the establishment of a tourism hub in Lanesborough, which allow for a suite of projects to build on the tourism infrastructure in the area and make Lanesborough/Ballyleague a more attractive tourism location in line with the offering of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands	212,500
86: Boat Eco-Tourism Service: Renovation of Boat Club and New Disability Friendly Passenger Boat	Lough Ree Access for All CLG	Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath	A new outdoor recreation reception centre will be developed by retrofitting and refurbishing a derelict premises to attain Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standard. Includes the purchase of a new boat for groups of up to 12 people – with over 7 wheelchair users for the first time ever on a passenger vessel in Britain or Ireland	471,693
89: Cloontuskert Visitor Centre and Organic Farm Feasibility & Design Study	Roscommon County Council	Roscommon	A feasibility and design study exploring the creation of an educational and interactive, audio visual, and virtual reality visitor experience which will bring tourists to the region	212,500

Category 6 – Community Development & Capacity Building

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Summary and Presentation	Grant Amount €
12: West Offaly: Quality of Life, Place & Experience (Strand 1 project)	Offaly Local Development Company	Offaly	Developing an approach to regional development which starts with understanding the type of environment people locally want to create and work collaboratively with willing partners	91,162
14: Development of a Green HQ - Climate Action & Green Enterprise Centre, Offaly	Offaly Local Development Company	Offaly	This project involves the conversion of Fiesta Hall, Kilcormac, into a centralised headquarters for climate action research, green business enterprises and sustainability training programmes for County Offaly	960,349
62: Revamp Longford Circular Economy Project	Employment Development & Information Centre Longford (EDI Centre)	Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath	This project will further develop an existing social enterprise, Revamp Longford, strengthening the circular economy. It will involve the recruitment of a Social Enterprise Development Manager to lead on project delivery and support a range of circular economy projects	161,394
74: Ballyforan Area Development Feasibility Study (Strand 1 project)	Ballyforan Area Transition Team CLG	East Galway, Roscommon	A local transition plan for the community to understand the viability of a number of project ideas to revitalise the community	97,750

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Summary and Presentation	Grant Amount €
119: Social Enterprise Exchange	The Cluster Centre	East Galway, Laois, Longford, Offaly, Roscommon, Westmeath	This project is a research, knowledge sharing and collaboration-based initiative that will grow shared understanding of the existing county Social Enterprise asset base, the support systems at county level and facilitate interactions and growth between industry	170,978
126: Connecting Communities with Peatlands: Capacity Building Programme	Irish Rural Link	All eight counties	The project seeks to intensify and broaden the current activities of the Community Wetlands Forum in providing a networking platform for community-led conservation groups through sharing knowledge, ideas, research and best practice	277,080
148: Climate Action Midlands Training and Mentoring Programme	Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office	All eight counties	The establishment of a Climate Action Training and Mentoring Programme centred around building capacity and empowering impacted communities. Will focus on enabling impacted communities within the Midlands Region to enhance their knowledge, understanding and confidence	255,000

Category 7 – Greenways & Walking

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Summary and Presentation	Grant Amount €
40: Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park Greenway: Design Study	Longford County Council	Longford	Funding will be used to do a Preliminary Design and Environmental Assessment of trails within BnM bogs in County Roscommon up to statutory consent stage and full stage consultancy service for conversion of Kilnacarrow Bridge	102,000
56.58: Lough Boora Discovery Park Greenways and The Midlands Cycling Destination Strategy	Offaly County Council	Offaly, Westmeath, East Galway	The project will develop enhanced cycling and walking links between the Grand Canal Greenway and Lough Boora Discovery Park and produce a strategy for creating a major cycling destination in the Midlands	998,155
66: Tipperary Littleton Labyrinth: Development of a Walking and Cycling Trail	Tipperary County Council	North Tipperary	The project will develop a loop walk at Loch Dhoire Bhile and a loop trail at Derrynaflan to develop a trail linking these two amenities thereby greatly enhancing recreation, amenity, tourism and rural connectivity	663,719
67: Baylin Bog Trail (Strand 1 project)	Baylin Development Association	Westmeath	Creating a looped trail linking Baylin Village and the adjoining bog which is part of Carn Park Bog SAC. The proposed trail is 2.61km	99,450
71: Development of a Pedestrian and Cycle Link: Killucan to the Royal Canal	Westmeath County Council	Westmeath	This project consists of creating a safe segregated walking and cycling link connecting Killucan/Rathwire to the Royal Canal Greenway that forms part of the Galway - Dublin National Cycle Network	391,000

Project Code & Name	Grantee	Main Counties to Benefit	Summary and Presentation	Grant Amount €
88: Lough Ree Bay Boardwalk Feasibility Study (Strand 1 project)	Roscommon County Council	Roscommon	Feasibility study for a Lough Ree Bay Boardwalk to create access to Lough Ree Bay and shoreline, including environmental assessment and detailed design to underpin the tourism potential	76,500
117: Umeras Peatlands Park - Design Study (Strand 1 project)	Umeras Community Development	Kildare, Laois, Offaly	Study to establish feasibility and design/planning work to create a peatlands park on the decommissioned Bord na Mona Umeras Bog located between Monasterevin and Rathangan	62,730
139: Extension to Peatland Biodiversity Boardwalk 4th Final Phase (Strand 1 project)	Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park CLG	Kildare, Offaly	A 300 metre extension to a biodiversity boardwalk in Lullymore Heritage Park which will provide access to the West Plantation Woodland and traverse the Peatland biodiversity area	83,200