



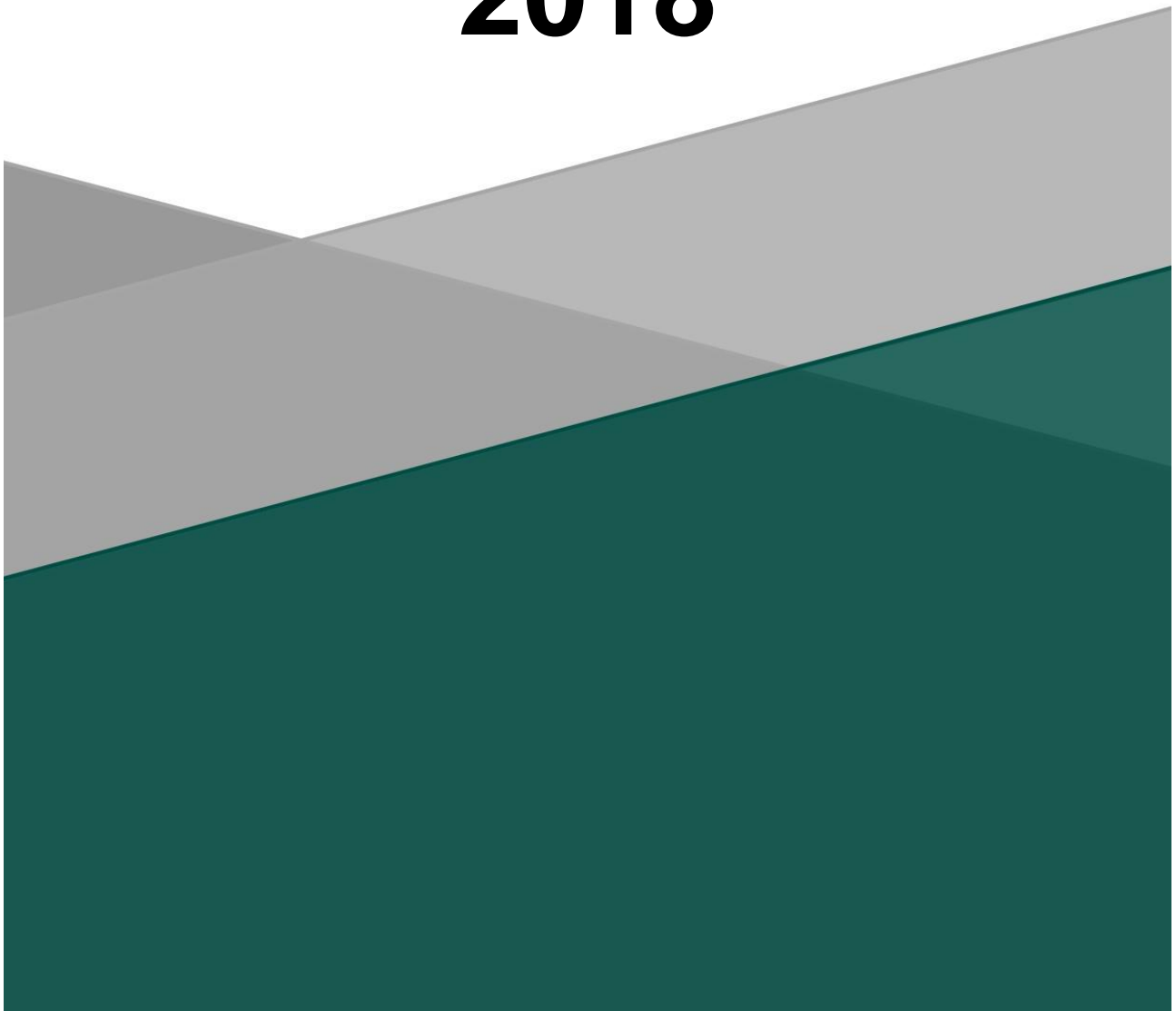
An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

ANNUAL REPORT

2018



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Minister,

We are pleased to submit to you the Annual Report on the performance of the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces for 2018.



Maurice Quinn

Maurice Quinn
Secretary General



Mark Mellett

Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM
Chief of Staff

FOREWORD BY AN TAOISEACH AND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE



I welcome the publication of the Annual Report of the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces for 2018. This Report provides comprehensive details of the significant progress made during 2018 in meeting each of the Strategic Goals that are set out in the Department of Defence and Defence Forces Strategy Statement 2017–2020. This Report also contains a comprehensive array of statistical data that highlights the range of important activities undertaken and outputs produced during the year.

Importantly, this Report refers throughout to the progress that the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces continued to make on implementation of the White Paper on Defence which provides the strategic and comprehensive defence policy framework for the period up to 2025. Since its approval by Government in 2015, the White Paper has driven the identification of key priorities and, along with the Programme for a Partnership Government agreed in 2016, it has informed many of the Strategic Goals, Objectives and Actions contained in the Strategy Statement.

The defence policy framework set out in the White Paper is designed to be flexible and responsive, which I believe is important given the dynamic nature of the current security environment. Within this context, the White Paper specifically provides for the establishment of a new fixed cycle of defence reviews and I am pleased to note that the first in this new cycle of reviews, a White Paper Update, commenced in 2018 and is now close to completion.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Secretary General, the Chief of Staff and all personnel within the Department, the Defence Forces and Civil Defence for their continued hard work and effort throughout 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Leo Varadkar'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Leo Varadkar T.D.

AN TAOISEACH AND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE



FOREWORD BY MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENCE

I am very pleased to receive this Annual Report of the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces. Clearly, 2018 was another significant year for Defence, on various fronts, including the fact that it marked the 60th anniversary of our first involvement in UN peacekeeping and the 40th anniversary of our first deployment to Lebanon as part of the UNIFIL mission. Ireland has a long and proud tradition of participation in UN mandated peace support operations and in 2018 an impressive total of 1,696 members of the Permanent Defence Force served overseas in various missions. Their exemplary service provides a very tangible demonstration of Ireland's commitment to supporting the maintenance of international peace and security.

For many, 2018 will be long remembered for the severe weather events that occurred; initially caused by the impact of Storm Emma which brought significant wind and snowfall, and which was followed during the summer months by an intense heatwave of historic proportions. The outstanding response from the Department of Defence, the Defence Forces and Civil Defence during these extreme weather events was something of which I was extremely proud. Government also expressed its sincere appreciation of the work of all those who responded to these events during the year, and indeed the commitment of the members of Civil Defence and the Reserve Defence Force is testament to the continued spirit of voluntary service that enriches Irish society in so many ways.

The year also saw the appointment of a new Ombudsman for the Defence Forces, the successful conclusion of the review of the Conciliation and Arbitration scheme, the provision of increased financial supports to our veterans, continued investment in our barracks, force protection and major equipment platforms, the commencement of a wide ranging review of the roles of Civil Defence and, thanks to a huge amount of work undertaken, a very significant increase of just over €60 million for Defence in the Revised Estimates for 2019.

I wish to thank the civil and military team in Defence for the work undertaken in 2018, both at home and overseas, and I look forward to working with them in the period ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Kehoe', followed by a flourish.

Paul Kehoe T.D.

MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
SECTION 1: DEFENCE POLICY	2
Strategic Goal - PROVISION OF TIMELY AND RELEVANT POLICY AND MILITARY ADVICE	2
Strategic Goal - IMPLEMENT THE WHITE PAPER ON DEFENCE	3
Strategic Goal - CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY	4
Strategic Goal - ENHANCE CROSS CUTTING POLICY COLLABORATION	9
SECTION 2: ENSURING THE CAPACITY TO DELIVER	17
Strategic Goal - DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CAPABILITIES	17
Strategic Goal - EFFICIENT AND INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES	25
Strategic Goal - DEVELOP MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES, ORGANISATION AND PEOPLE	27
SECTION 3: DEFENCE FORCES OPERATIONAL OUTPUTS	35
Strategic Goal - DELIVER OPERATIONS SUCCESSFULLY	35
SECTION 4: CORPORATE INFORMATION AND DATA	45
4.1 Details of Defence Vote expenditure for 2016, 2017 and 2018 by Category*	45
4.2 Details of Army Pensions Vote expenditure for 2016, 2017 and 2018 by Category*	45
4.3 Details of the Volume of Transactions Processed during 2016, 2017 and 2018	46
4.4 Internal Audit	46
4.5 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	46
4.6 Freedom of Information	47
4.7 Protected Disclosures	48
4.8 Energy Consumption 2018	49
4.9 Cross-Departmental Working Groups with input from Defence	51
4.10 Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Service Level Agreements (SLAs)	53

Introduction

This Annual Report reviews the performance of the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces during 2018. Performance is reviewed against each of the Strategic Goals set out in the Department of Defence and Defence Forces Strategy Statement 2017 – 2020.

The Strategy Statement for the period 2017 – 2020 establishes the High Level Goal of the Defence Organisation¹ as:

To provide for the military defence of the State, contribute to national and international peace and security and fulfil all other roles assigned by Government.

There are three distinct but complementary strategic dimensions required to deliver the High Level Goal. These are:

1. Defence Policy
2. Ensuring the Capacity to Deliver
3. Defence Forces Operational Outputs

These headings form the basis of individual sections in this Report.

This Report fulfils the requirements of Section 4(1)(b) of the Public Service (Management) Act 1997 for an annual report to the Minister on performance against strategic objectives.

¹ The terminology used in this Annual Report is as follows: the term “Defence” is used to refer in a broad sense to defence provision in Ireland comprising civil and military elements; the “Defence Organisation” refers to the civil and military organisation; the “Defence Forces” refers to the military organisation.

Section 1: Defence Policy

Strategic Goal - PROVISION OF TIMELY AND RELEVANT POLICY AND MILITARY ADVICE

Defence policy encompasses all areas of Defence provision and underpins the requirement to ensure that the State retains and develops appropriate defence capabilities having regard to the defence and security environment. In addition, the Department of Defence provides a broad range of supports to the Minister to assist him in his role as head of the Department.

The Defence Organisation has civil and military elements, which work collaboratively to ensure that the Minister's and Government's requirements for Defence are delivered. The Secretary General is the Minister's principal policy adviser, while the Chief of Staff is the Minister's principal military adviser.

In respect of domestic security and support, the defence policy framework encompasses, among other things, defence policy and defence policy inputs to the State's overarching security framework, the work of the Office of Emergency Planning, Civil Defence and the development of Memoranda of Understanding and Service Level Agreements with other government departments and state agencies, across a diverse range of roles.

The defence policy framework also encompasses, in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, defence inputs to the maintenance of global and regional peace and security, including the ongoing development of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), Ireland's support for multilateralism and collective security through participation in United Nations authorised peace support and crisis management operations, our engagement in NATO's Partnership for Peace and support to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Throughout 2018, Ireland continued to participate in the ongoing development of EU military and civilian crisis management capabilities under CSDP, within the framework of the commitment to the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. During the year, there were five ministerial meetings (three formal meetings of the EU Foreign Affairs Council with Defence Ministers, and two informal meetings) and Ireland was represented at all of these meetings. Ireland was also represented at all five meetings of Defence Policy Directors and at the three Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) meetings. Ireland maintains bilateral relationships with other countries at both policy and operational levels, and the Defence Forces have regular staff to staff meetings with other militaries to exchange information and experiences. During 2018, a number of bilateral meetings were held with a range of EU Member States and other organisations, such as the United Nations, the European External Action Service, the European Defence Agency and NATO.

Throughout 2018, strategic defence issues were discussed by the Strategic Management Committee (SMC) on a monthly basis. The SMC is a joint civil-military committee comprising the Secretary General of the Department of Defence (Chairman), the Chief of Staff, the three Assistant Secretary Generals, the two Deputy Chiefs of Staff, the Director and the Assistant Chief of Staff. The General Officer Commanding the Air Corps and the Flag Officer

Commanding the Naval Service attend in respect of matters affecting their services. Close co-operation on all matters between civil and military elements is a priority.

The High Level Planning and Procurement Group (HLPPG) is a high level joint civil-military group whose role is to develop and implement multi-annual rolling plans for equipment procurement and disposal, and infrastructural development based on the policy priorities in the White Paper. The HLPPG met on nine occasions in 2018.

The Office of the Minister for Defence provides a link between the Secretary General and the Minister, the Department, the military authorities, and the general public and is responsible for the monitoring and co-ordination of the Department's contribution to parliamentary business. During 2018, the Minister answered a total of 1,044 Parliamentary Questions while a further 538 representations to the Minister were administered during the year, amongst a wide range of other parliamentary and Ministerial business.

During 2018, Military Intelligence provided 112 briefings and assessments including monthly intelligence and security briefings, pre-deployment and post-deployment briefings for personnel on Peace Support Operations, and Ministerial briefings. Military Intelligence also conducted multiple internal awareness and security briefings for military career courses and staffs of the Defence Forces.

Strategic Goal - IMPLEMENT THE WHITE PAPER ON DEFENCE

The White Paper on Defence provides the defence policy framework out to 2025. Following publication of the White Paper, a total of 88 projects were identified to be completed over a ten year period. From a programme management perspective, these have ultimately become 95 discrete projects.

A Joint White Paper Implementation Facilitation Team (Joint Team) provides support and monitors the progress of these White Paper projects. The Joint Team is a civil-military team which operates in an oversight capacity. The Joint Team reports monthly on the progress of implementation to the Strategic Management Committee (SMC) as part of the governance framework put in place to oversee implementation and to embed a project management approach to implementation. These monthly reports are used to inform programme decisions and to provide high quality information to the Minister and to senior civil and military management, while the use of a project management framework to facilitate implementation of the White Paper has allowed the Defence Organisation to take a dynamic and practical approach to implementation.

Implementation of the White Paper Programme progressed in planned phases throughout 2018. This phased process was kept under review across the year and was subject to change or update as issues arose and other business dictated. Decisions about which projects to progress at any stage take into account the priorities set out in the Programme for a Partnership Government, existing workloads facing the Defence Organisation and available resources, linkages identified, and initiatives that are already underway.

By the end of 2018, a total of 39 White Paper projects had been initiated since the beginning of the implementation programme in June 2016. Of these, six projects were fully completed and closed during 2018, in addition to five projects that were fully completed and closed in 2017. Several others are due to close in 2019. White Paper projects that are currently active cover a broad range of areas and are at various stages of development. All active projects are each being managed by the Joint Team.

A second tranche of projects due for initiation in 2018 was approved by the Minister in Q4 2017. Training of project teams who are progressing the second tranche of projects began in Q4 2017, while ongoing professional development in the area of Project Management of all project teams was facilitated by the Joint Team at key junctures in 2018. The Joint Team was also actively involved in the work of the Civil Service Project Manager's Network throughout 2018 in order to continue to share in the development and propagation of best practice in project management.

WHITE PAPER UPDATE

In accordance with a commitment in the White Paper, a new fixed cycle of defence reviews is to be established, at three yearly intervals, with every second review being more comprehensive in nature and styled a Strategic Defence Review. Work for the first of such reviews, the White Paper Update, commenced in July 2018.

The White Paper Update process included, during 2018, commencement of engagement with the Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence, a Review of White Paper Implementation, and the establishment of an inter-departmental/inter-agency group to carry out a full review of the security environment, capturing changes in the domestic and international security environment that have occurred since 2015. The group, which met on a number of occasions during 2018, included representatives from the departments of Defence; Taoiseach; Justice and Equality; Foreign Affairs and Trade; Communications, Climate Action and Environment; and also representatives of both the Defence Forces and An Garda Síochána.

Strategic Goal - CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

CABINET COMMITTEE F (NATIONAL SECURITY)

Cabinet Committee F (National Security) was established by the Government in 2017 and met during 2018. The Committee comprises Ministers of relevant departments, along with their officials, and representatives of An Garda Síochána and the Defence Forces. The role of the Committee is to keep the State's systems for the analysis of, preparation for, and response to, threats to national security under review as well as to provide for high-level co-ordination between relevant departments and agencies on related matters. The Cabinet Committee allows greater ministerial involvement in preparing for and managing major security threats.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON POLICING

The Report of the Commission on Policing was published in September 2018. Following this, the Department of Defence contributed to the work of both the Steering Board and Implementation Group on Policing Reform.

EU GLOBAL STRATEGY ON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

During 2018, in response to the ongoing security challenges in the EU neighbourhood, development and implementation of initiatives in the area of security and defence within the EU continued apace. Developments in 2018 followed on from the presentation, by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, of the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy to the European Council in June 2016, and the associated Implementation Plan to Foreign and Defence Ministers in November 2016.

Implementation of initiatives across 2018 included key deliverables in relation to Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO); in particular, the establishment of a common set of governance rules for PESCO projects in June and agreement of the sequencing of PESCO commitments in October. PESCO's first round of 17 projects was approved in March 2018 and the second round of 17 projects was approved in November 2018. Ireland is a participant on two projects from the first round, namely the German-led European Union Training Mission Competence Centre project and the Greek-led Upgrade of Maritime Surveillance project. Ireland is an Observer on a further eight projects, six from the first round and two from the second round.

The Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC), which was established in June 2017, is responsible for the operational planning and conduct of non-executive missions, including the building up, launching, sustaining and recovery of Member States' forces on European Union operations. The work of the MPCC is coordinated through a Joint Support Coordination Cell which brings together the civilian and military planning expertise in support of the EU Comprehensive approach to crisis management. The Council Decision establishing the MPCC included a stipulation that a review of the mechanism should be carried out after a year of operations, but no later than before the end of 2018. This review process commenced with a report by High Representative/Vice President (HRVP) Mogherini in October 2018 outlining proposals for the further development of the MPCC which form the basis of the review.

The trial run of the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) continued throughout 2018. This initiative aims to create greater transparency amongst Member States by sharing information on future defence policy, capability development, budgets and investment in order to support Member States in identifying opportunities for greater collaboration in the development and procurement of military capabilities, including equipment, training and support services. In 2018, Ireland participated in the CARD Trial Run Process through information gathering and bilateral dialogue with the final CARD Trial Run Report presented in November 2018.

During 2018, progress was made with the establishment of the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) under the current Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) with a total budget of €500m. The

EDIDP has the objective of fostering collaborative defence capability development and reinforcing the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the Union's defence industry. In November 2018, the Council adopted its position on the European Defence Fund proposed by the European Commission in the context of the MFF for 2021-2027. The purpose of the €13 billion Fund is to “foster the competitiveness, efficiency and innovation capacity of the European defence industry”.

On March 28th 2018, a Joint Communication regarding the Action Plan on Military Mobility was published by President Juncker and HRVP Mogherini. The Action Plan builds on the Roadmap on Military Mobility developed in the framework of the European Defence Agency and covers a number of military requirements including infrastructure, dangerous goods, customs and VAT as well as cross border movement permission. These actions are not restricted to the Defence area alone and the Department of Defence is liaising with other relevant departments and agencies, including the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Action Plan recognises that full respect will be given to the sovereignty of EU Member States over their national territory and national decision making processes regarding military movements.

At the Foreign Affairs Council in November, the Minister with Responsibility for Defence, together with his Defence Ministerial colleagues from Sweden, Austria, the Netherlands and Belgium launched a new initiative designed to enhance the contribution of EU Member States to UN Blue Hat Operations across the globe. The initiative is designed to support EU Member States, who are now returning to UN peacekeeping in increasing numbers. The proposal envisages a more transparent system whereby EU Member States can collaborate together to contribute to UN Missions while also having greater visibility on how they can exit such operations, as and when required. Throughout 2018, Ireland continued to be a key advocate for increased participation by EU Member States in UN Operations.

The Department of Defence remained fully engaged in the corresponding processes across all applicable defence and security initiatives at EU level, negotiating and promoting Ireland's interests in accordance with the policies set out in the White Paper, in consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other relevant government departments.

EU-NATO COOPERATION

In 2018 work continued on a Common Set of Proposals for the implementation of the Joint Declaration on EU-NATO Cooperation made in July 2016 by the Presidents of the European Council and European Commission, together with the NATO Secretary General. These proposals focus on cooperation in the key areas of countering hybrid threats, operational cooperation including maritime issues, cyber security and defence, defence capabilities, defence industry and research, exercises and defence and security capacity building.

In June 2018, the third progress report on EU-NATO cooperation was issued by the EU and NATO. It did not identify any new areas of cooperation and was positive regarding progress to date. A further Joint Declaration on EU-NATO cooperation was signed in Brussels in July 2018 by the Presidents of the European Council and the EU Commission, and the NATO Secretary General as a stocktake of the 2016 Joint Declaration.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UK

Work continued during 2018 on the various actions provided for in the Action Plan of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ireland and the UK on the enhancement of bilateral engagement on certain aspects of defence and security co-operation. The MoU, and the associated Action Plan, fully respects the differing policy positions and security arrangements of both States.

BREXIT

During 2018, the Department of Defence remained fully engaged with planning for Brexit to address the potential challenges arising. The senior official with responsibility for Brexit related matters represented the Department on the Interdepartmental Senior Officials, and, EU and Brexit Groups which are chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach and are engaged with the identification of key strategic, operational and policy issues arising from Brexit. Department officials also attended the Brexit Co-ordinators Group and relevant Sectoral Groups, which are chaired by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. During 2018, the Defence Forces also continued to engage in prudent planning for a broad range of contingencies. There is ongoing close liaison between An Garda Síochána and the Defence Forces regarding security matters and regular coordination and liaison meetings take place.

EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY (EDA)

Ireland's interaction and participation in the EDA means that the opportunity is afforded to keep track of best practice in relation to modern technology and the development of capabilities that can assist the Defence Forces in its peacekeeping role. It provides access to research and information on developing and maintaining professional capabilities that we cannot self-generate for crisis management and international Peace Support Operations. It also allows us to keep abreast of best practice and new developments in the defence environment particularly as it impacts on multinational crisis management operations.

In 2018, Ireland continued its participation in a number of Energy initiatives with the European Defence Agency. Some examples include the EDA's Energy and Environment Working Group which examines opportunities to improve energy performance across the Defence Sector and the EDA 'Smart Blue Camps' Water Management project which aims to address energy and environmental concerns with regard to water usage and management in military installations. Ireland continued to participate in the European Commission's 'Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence & Security Sectors' (CFSEDSS) which is being coordinated by the EDA. During 2018, Ireland participated in four EDA projects in the areas of Counter Improvised Explosive Devices, Maritime Surveillance, Satellite Communications and Cyber Defence. Ireland also continued to participate in a number of EDA project teams and meetings throughout 2018.

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITY READINESS SYSTEM (PCRS)

Ireland and other troop contributing countries are obliged to register capabilities and contingents available for deployment to UN Peacekeeping Operations overseas on the PCRS system. These capabilities are additional to those already deployed or committed to other operations. The purpose of the PCRS system is to provide the UN with a dynamic up to date catalogue of actual trained and available forces to draw from when establishing or reinforcing a UN mission. Prior to a UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference in Vancouver in November 2017, Ireland renewed its existing pledge of capabilities associated with the UNIFIL and UNDOF missions and made a further pledge to provide training courses for troop contributing countries preparing to deploy troops overseas on UN mandated missions. The courses are linked with needs identified by the UN, including protection of civilians, civil military relations and staff officer training. During 2018, the Defence Forces completed delivery of a four week intensive counter-IED training course in Burkina Faso to troops due to deploy to a UN mission in Mali. In addition, training was provided at the UN Training School (UNTSI) to troops from Vietnam and Lesotho on Protection of Civilians.

PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE (PFP)

Ireland's relationship with NATO is conducted through the PFP Planning and Review Process (PARP) mechanism. Ireland's involvement in PARP is focused on enhancing Defence Forces interoperability in multi-national operations and contributing to the development of military capabilities in accordance with international standards. Ireland continued to make progress in meeting the requirements of its Partnership Goals. In 2018, through the updating/merging of some Partnership Goals, as well as the addition of three new Goals, there were 27 Partnership Goals addressed to Ireland which we will continue to make progress on.

In line with the White Paper on Defence, Ireland continued to engage with the Partnership Interoperability Advocacy Group (PIAG) and continued its participation in the Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) (Evaluation & Feedback Pillar) during 2018. PIAG provides a unique opportunity to maximise interoperability and to foster, develop and enhance cooperation and dialogue with other members. Ireland took up the Chairmanship of the PIAG group for 2018. The main benefit to participation in OCC is that Defence Forces training is benchmarked to an international standard through both internal and external validation. The first Defence Forces unit to participate in the OCC Evaluation and Feedback Assessment in 2018 completed the Self Evaluation Level 1 at the end of March and the NATO Evaluation Level 1 Assessment in October 2018.

In February 2018, a bilateral meeting was held with NATO officials in Ireland to discuss Ireland's 2018 PARP Partnership Goals Package and a subsequent multilateral meeting was held in NATO HQ in June 2018 to finalise and sign off on our PARP Goals Package.

INSTITUTE FOR PEACE SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The White Paper on Defence includes a commitment to evaluating the potential development of a new Institute for Peace Support and Leadership Training at the Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh Camp. The Programme

for a Partnership Government also included a commitment to developing this Institute. It is foreseen that the new Institute will have international standing and contribute to the overall development of knowledge and experience in the areas of peace support, leadership and conflict resolution.

Arising from initial scoping work carried out on the proposal during 2016 and 2017, it was decided to conduct a formal feasibility study of the concept. Following a tendering competition, a contract to carry out this study was awarded in December 2017. Work commenced in January 2018 and continued throughout the year. An interim report was finalised in October 2018 which informed the next steps to be taken, and a final report outlining the feasibility of the concept is due to be published in 2019.

Strategic Goal - ENHANCE CROSS CUTTING POLICY COLLABORATION

There are important cross-departmental dimensions to the work of the Defence Organisation and meeting our goals and objectives is often critically dependent on the inputs and co-operation of other departments and agencies. Equally, their success can be dependent on the inputs and co-operation of the Defence Organisation. Throughout 2018, Department officials and Defence Forces personnel were represented on a wide range of inter-departmental groups and committees – see Section 4.9 for a full list.

The Defence Organisation has pioneered the use of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) covering services delivered to a range of other departments and agencies. The Department continued to develop this approach during 2018 and a list of all MOUs and SLAs is contained at Section 4.10. In addition, in accordance with a White Paper commitment, work also commenced on the development of a new SLA with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade relating to participation by members of the Defence Forces in the Emergency Civil Assistance Team (ECAT) initiative.

The White Paper on Defence reflects the importance of whole of government approaches to the security of the State. During 2018, the Department of Defence continued to collaborate with a range of departments and agencies that have security responsibilities. In addition to the review of the security environment assessment carried out as part of the White Paper Update, developments in relation to some of these cross-cutting relationships during 2018 are outlined below.

GOVERNMENT TASK FORCE ON EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Government Task Force (GTF) on Emergency Planning provides strategic direction and coordination of national-level emergency planning. It comprises Ministers and/or senior officials from all government departments and key public bodies. The GTF met on six occasions in 2018. The Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) supports the Minister with Responsibility for Defence in his role as Chair of the Task Force whilst the National Emergency Coordination Centre (NECC), located in Agriculture House in Dublin, is managed by the OEP. The NECC hosted

all meetings of the Government Task Force during 2018 as well as a wide range of other emergency planning groups, training seminars and exercises.

STRATEGIC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: NATIONAL STRUCTURES AND FRAMEWORK

As part of the work of the GTF, a review of the existing national-level structures and processes was initiated in 2014 and this culminated in the production of the “Strategic Emergency Management (SEM): National Structures and Framework” document, which has been published with associated guideline documents developed in 2018. The aim of the SEM document and its associated annexes is to ensure that all state bodies can react quickly and efficiently to any large-scale emergency. It provides strategic guidance and direction on various elements of emergency management at a national-level to government departments and agencies under their aegis. As part of the implementation plan for the SEM, the Task Force agreed a Work Programme for 2018, which included Terms of Reference and Projects for the various Task Force Subgroups established to address areas to be further developed, such as Critical Infrastructure Resilience, Emergency Communications Strategies, and Planning and Risk Management. The latter includes the development of our national risk assessment methodologies and in 2018 the Task Force carried out an assessment of our national-level risk management capabilities, which is a specific reporting requirement under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. A Summary Report on this Assessment of Risk Management Capabilities for 2018 was submitted to the EU Commission to meet this requirement in September 2018 and was subsequently published, alongside our National Risk Assessment for 2017, on the <https://www.emergencyplanning.ie> website. This assessment and subsequent analysis will help to inform future work by the Task Force on capability development planning at a national-level.

‘BE WINTER READY’ CAMPAIGN

The Government launched the ‘Be Winter-Ready’ 2018-2019 Information Campaign on November 7th 2018 focusing on building strong communities and looking out for the vulnerable. The campaign, under the theme ‘You, Your Community & The Winter’, was jointly launched by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr. Michael Ring T.D., Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Ms. Regina Doherty T.D., Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr. Shane Ross T.D. and Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government with special responsibility for Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Damien English T.D. Also in attendance were representatives from the various departments and agencies tasked with emergency planning and response. The launch coincided with a meeting of the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning, which specifically dealt with winter-preparedness issues.

The ‘Be Winter-Ready’ campaign informs the public of what is being done in relation to winter preparations and where they can source valuable information that can assist them through a difficult period. The Office of Emergency Planning, in collaboration with their colleagues in the Department of Rural and Community Development, have designed and produced a leaflet on building strong communities. This leaflet is available on the <https://www.winterready.ie/en> website.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION GROUP

Severe weather events continue to be the main reason for convening a National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG). In late February 2018 precautionary meetings of the NECG were convened ahead of a predicted severe cold spell and associated weather warnings from Met Éireann. The subsequent impact of Storm Emma brought significant wind and snowfall and resulted in the NECG meeting on a daily basis throughout this particular severe weather event in the National Emergency Coordination Centre, which was supported by the Office of Emergency Planning.

The NECG for Severe Weather, led by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, managed the national level responses across all Departments/Agencies and provided regular media and Government briefings. The key public safety message advised avoiding all unnecessary travel and this was well heeded by the public which greatly assisted the Principal Response Agencies. The NECG continued to meet over the days following Storm Emma to assess the impacts and to oversee the recovery phase. In addition, the NECG held de-briefings to assist the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in assessing both the response and recovery phases during this weather event.

In complete contrast, the summer months of 2018 saw temperatures reach record highs and drought conditions prevailed across many parts of the country. Again, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government took the lead response role convening precautionary NECG meetings to address collectively the impact of these conditions. The main concerns were the serious impact on water supplies and public safety around water. The very hot and dry conditions also posed increased risks from wildfires, which occurred during this period and put further strains on the emergency services.

The Government expressed its sincere appreciation of the work of the front line services in responding to these events during the year but also for the level of community spirit and support shown across the country, particularly during the recovery and clear-up required after Storm Emma.

CYBER SECURITY

An important step in the process of giving effect to a commitment made in the White Paper on Defence was the signing of a MOU in 2016, followed by a SLA in 2017, which formalised existing arrangements for the provision of Defence Forces support to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) in the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. In accordance with the MoU and SLA, Defence Forces support to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment continued during 2018.

CEREMONIALS AND COMMEMORATIONS

The Defence Organisation were involved in planning for and participating in more than 50 significant State and Military ceremonial events in 2018.

The State commemoration ceremonies that were supported included the Commemoration of the 102nd anniversary of the Easter Rising at the GPO, O'Connell Street on Easter Sunday April 1st; the annual Commemoration at Arbour Hill on May 9th; the National Famine Commemoration held at the University College Cork on May 12th and the National Day of Commemoration at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, on July 8th.

State ceremonial honours were afforded on the occasion of the State Visit to Ireland of the President of the Italian Republic in February, and the visit to Ireland by His Holiness Pope Francis in August. Honours were also afforded to President Michael D. Higgins, on the occasion of his departure for a State visit to Latvia and Lithuania in June.

Under the Decade of Centenaries programme 2012-2022, a number of events with Department of Defence and Defence Forces involvement took place during 2018 to commemorate significant centenary anniversaries. On April 15th, the Defence Forces participated in the State Ceremony to mark the 100th Anniversary of the death of John Redmond in Wexford.

Also, the Department of Defence and Defence Forces played a key role in State commemorations to mark the centenary of significant events from World War I. A Victoria Cross Commemorative Stone was unveiled at Glasnevin Cemetery in July to commemorate the heroism of Major Edward Corringham Mannock VC. The centenary of the end of World War I was also marked with a State ceremony at Glasnevin Cemetery in November. On October 10th, the Defence Forces participated in the State Ceremony to mark the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Leinster in Dun Laoghaire.

In addition, the Defence Forces also played a significant role in the inauguration ceremony of Michael D. Higgins as Uachtarán na hÉireann on November 11th.

The Defence Forces also participated in a series of monthly ceremonies at Áras an Uachtaráin where a total of 38 Ambassadors presented their Credentials of Office to President Higgins.

A special State ceremony was held at Dublin Castle in June to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Ireland's first contribution to United Nations Peacekeeping operations, and the continuous participation of members of the Defence Forces on operations since then. As part of these commemorations, members of the Defence Forces also took part in a wreath laying ceremony at United Nations Headquarters in New York in July, which was attended by An Taoiseach.

Defence Forces Veterans Day was held at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin, in May while a series of summer ceremonies at the National Memorial, Merrion Square, were held to remember those members of the Defence Forces who have given their lives in the service of the State. In September, Major General Michael Beary was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with Honour at a ceremony in Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin,

in recognition of his distinguished service characterised by outstanding qualities of leadership, diplomacy and devotion to duty.

MILITARY ARCHIVES

The Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection (MSPC) project is a Defence Organisation contribution to the Decade of Centenaries. The project is mandated to preserve and make available the files and records of the Department of Defence dealing with the service of qualifying members of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizen Army, the Hibernian Rifles, Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna Éireann and the Irish Republican Army from the period April 1916 to the September 30th 1923. This involves cataloguing and partially digitising in excess of 300,000 files.

Public release of material from the collection is made available online through the Military Archives website <http://www.militaryarchives.ie>. A number of online releases have been completed and a further release, of 4,300 files, occurred in May 2018 to mark the 10th anniversary of the project bringing the number of files processed and released to 87,835 comprising some 1.2m individual scanned pages.

DEFENCE FORCES EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SCHEME

In line with the Programme for a Partnership Government and the White Paper on Defence, a Defence Forces Employment Support Scheme was developed by the Department of Defence, the Defence Forces, the Department of Social Protection and the Dublin and Dun-Laoghaire Education and Training Board. The objective of the Scheme is to help develop a path to economic independence for participants, aged between 18 and 24 years, who are at a serious disadvantage owing to their current socio-economic situation. The programme aims to provide participants with new skills, knowledge, competencies and self-development that enhances their capacity to pursue employment, work experience or further educational opportunities.

Two successful iterations of the programme took place in 2018, as follows:

- (i) Collins Barracks, Cork, from June 11th to August 17th with 24 participants; and
- (ii) Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare from October 8th to December 13th with 20 participants.

An interim review of the Scheme completed in 2018 concluded that the Scheme should continue on the basis of one iteration annually.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil Defence was very active in assisting the Principal Response Agencies during the aftermath of Storm Emma, from February 28th to March 6th when the country was blanketed by the heaviest snowfalls in many years. A total of 350 Civil Defence volunteers from 28 different local authority areas were deployed and were involved continuously during this period.

The main tasks undertaken involved utilising a fleet of 176 four-wheel drive vehicles for the following purposes:

- Transporting patients to and from hospitals, including those requiring dialysis and cancer treatment;
- Transporting medical and nursing staff to and from work and out to visit patients in their homes;
- Transporting home care personnel;
- Transporting urgent medical supplies throughout the country;
- Delivering food, medication, water and fuel to isolated homes;
- Checking up on and if necessary evacuating vulnerable people from isolated areas;
- Delivering meals on wheels;
- Transporting local authority, Fire Service, Gardaí and Irish Water staff;
- Rescuing stranded motorists; and
- Transporting homeless people to emergency accommodation.

Civil Defence also played a major role during the Papal visit in August. Volunteers were deployed in both the Phoenix Park and at Knock Shrine. A total of 140 volunteers were on duty in Knock where their main role was assisting the Gardaí in terms of safety and stewarding at the event while volunteers were also involved in supporting the National Ambulance Service. In Dublin, there were over 400 volunteers on duty in the Phoenix Park who deployed a wide range of equipment including 11 ambulances, nine fire appliances, 19 heavy vehicles including four-wheel drives, large vans and medium size trucks, and two minibuses for transportation and logistics. Civil Defence also had a welfare unit in operation to provide food for volunteers on duty.

During the year, Civil Defence volunteers participated in over 60 missing persons searches in support of An Garda Síochána and the Irish Coast Guard. The Civil Defence drone service now consists of 20 operational units based around the country with 60 trained pilots. This service was successfully deployed during these search operations as were 10 underwater sonar units. Volunteers also assisted at over 2,000 community, local authority, charitable and sporting events throughout the year.

In 2018, at the request of the Minister with Responsibility for Defence, the Department of Defence commenced a wide ranging review of the roles of Civil Defence. This is an important process given Civil Defence was established back in 1951. A wide range of stakeholders are being consulted on the future direction of Civil Defence, including the Principal Response Agencies and the Civil Defence Officers within the Local Authorities.

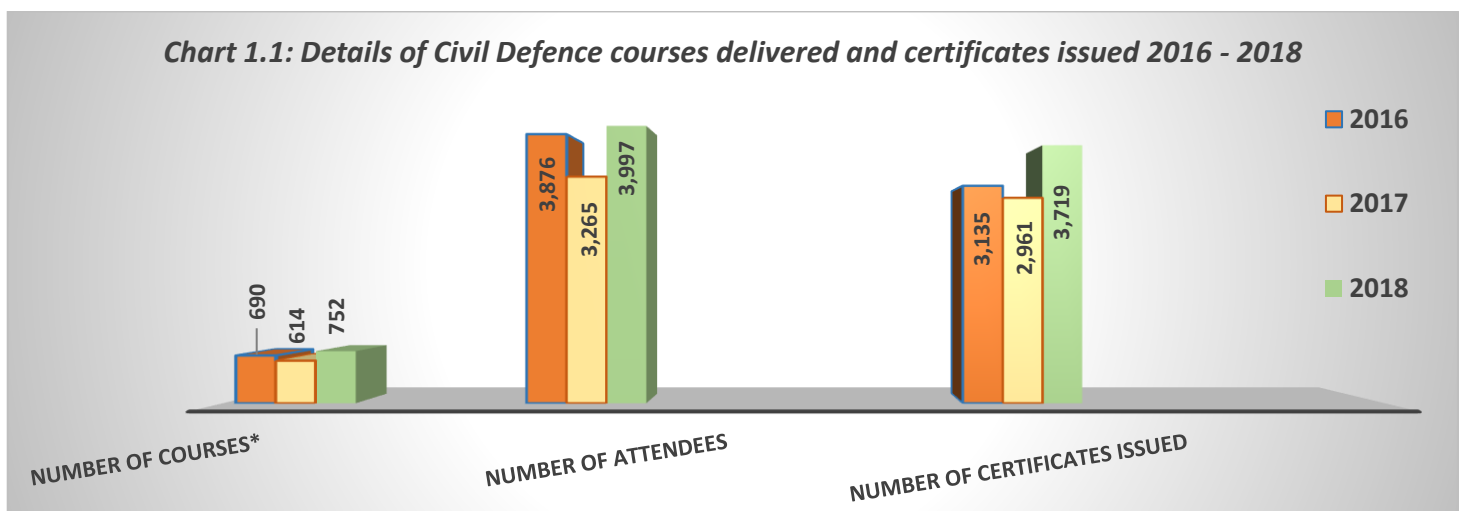
As part of the process, the Department organised eight regional volunteer consultation meetings which took place in October and November 2018. All Civil Defence volunteers were invited to attend these meetings with one meeting taking place in each of the Major Emergency Management regions. Just over 400 volunteers attended these meetings which allowed volunteers voice their opinion on the future development of Civil Defence and to contribute to a road map for the development of Civil Defence over the next 10 – 15 years.

At the end of 2018, there were a total of 3,629 active volunteers in Civil Defence compared to 3,451 at the end of 2017, and 3,452 at the end of 2016.

CIVIL DEFENCE TRAINING

Chart 1.1 provides details of Civil Defence courses delivered and certificates issued in the years 2016 to 2018 inclusive. Civil Defence administrators issue certification for most training delivered throughout all 34 local authorities and centrally within the Civil Defence College. The casualty service remains the most active with certification and recertification of qualifications happening throughout the year. Training around “Missing Persons Searches” remained important and is a key function of Civil Defence in supporting the Principle Response Agencies and in particular An Garda Síochána. Course syllabus and training materials for all courses are reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis.

Qualifications provided through the Civil Defence Branch are nationally and/or internationally recognised. The Civil Defence College continues to be affiliated to the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC), Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and Rescue 3 Europe.



* This does not include locally delivered uncertified training.

ATLANTIC YOUTH TRUST INITIATIVE

The Atlantic Youth Trust (AYT) is a youth development charity aimed at providing educational and personal development opportunities to young people. AYT proposes building and operating a new sail training vessel on an all-island basis to facilitate youth development, mentoring, and training. As part of the Government’s commitment to the Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan of November 2015, the Government undertook to work with the Northern Ireland Executive to seek agreement on a funding plan for the AYT project. The Department of Defence is the lead department in this jurisdiction for the initial stage of the project with the Department for Communities leading on behalf of the Northern Ireland Executive. During 2018 there was ongoing engagement between officials North and South regarding the economic analysis of the AYT proposals. However as of December 2018, both

departments were awaiting the outcome of further analysis being carried out by Ernst and Young who have been commissioned by the AYT.

SAIL TRAINING IRELAND

For many years, the State provided funding, through the Department of Defence, for the national sail training vessel Asgard II. However, following the loss of Asgard II off the French coast in 2008, the scheme was terminated. Sail Training Ireland was established in 2011 by some of those previously involved with Asgard II. Sail Training Ireland places young people, mainly from disadvantaged backgrounds, on voyages with the objective of youth development as well as teaching young people to sail. Sail Training Ireland had operated mainly on the basis of charitable donations until December 2018 when the Government agreed, in principle, to provide €85,000 to Sail Training Ireland for each of the following two years.

Section 2: Ensuring the Capacity to Deliver

Strategic Goal - DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CAPABILITIES

PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE STRENGTH

The Permanent Defence Force (PDF) consists of the Army, the Air Corps and the Naval Service. The Government is committed to maintaining a PDF establishment of 9,500 serving personnel, comprising of 7,520 Army Personnel, 886 Air Corps Personnel and 1,094 Naval Service Personnel.

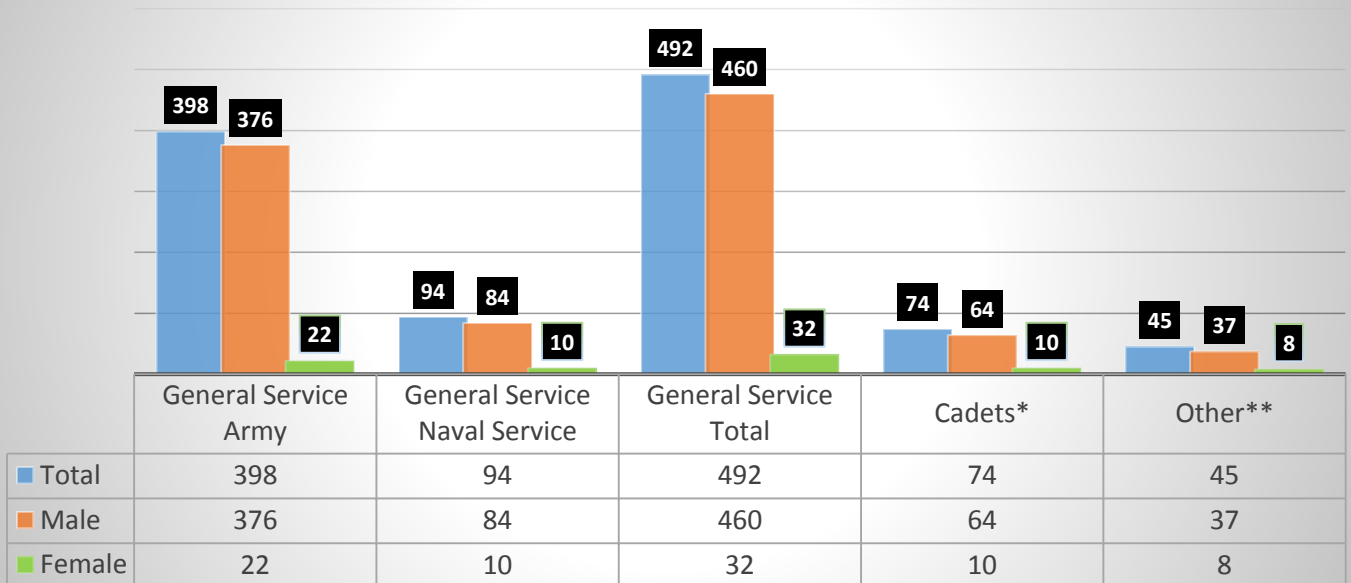
As of December 31st 2018, the strength of the PDF in whole time equivalent (WTE) posts stood at 8,957 personnel, comprising 7,243 Army personnel, 725 Air Corps personnel, and 989 Naval Service personnel.

RECRUITMENT TO THE PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE

Recruitment to the PDF continued throughout 2018. This encompassed two General Service recruit competitions, a Cadet competition, an apprentice competition, an instrumentalist competition as well as direct entry streams. This resulted in 611 personnel being inducted during the year.

These inductions comprised 398 Army Recruits, 94 Naval Recruits, 74 Cadets, 20 Air Corps Apprentices, two Direct Entry Naval Operators, two Direct Entry Doctors, two Military Medicine Officers and 19 Defence Forces School of Music Instrumentalists.

Chart 2.1: Details of Inductions to the PDF in 2018



* The cadet inductions in this category are new entrants only. In addition to these 74 new entrants, 15 serving soldiers were awarded a Cadetship bringing the total Cadet class size to 89.

** Includes Air Corps Apprentices, DFSM Instrumentalists and Direct Entry Officers

RETENTION OF PERSONNEL

Like other military organisations, turnover in the Defence Forces is higher than that which normally prevails in other sectors. In this context, there is ongoing recruitment to replace personnel who depart. A number of work strands are on-going in this area and retention initiatives are included in the Minister's priorities for 2019.

Challenges exist in recruiting and retaining certain specialists such as Pilots, Air Traffic Controllers, and certain Technicians. These specialists can prove difficult to retain where, as in the current economic environment and jobs market, there are demands for such specialists in other sectors. This is a challenge being faced by military forces elsewhere and is not confined to Ireland.

A significant amount of work continued throughout 2018 aimed at addressing these challenges. A range of alternative recruitment approaches are being developed aimed at addressing vacancies in specialist areas. During 2018, a scheme was introduced which permits former Officers with specialist skills to re-enter the PDF and proposals are being developed to provide a similar scheme for former enlisted personnel.

Direct entry provision is utilised, for those with professional qualifications, for the recruitment of Medical Officers and Engineers. A working group is examining the scope for greater use of such direct entry recruitment for certain specialist positions.

The Public Service Pay Commission has been tasked with examining recruitment and retention issues in the Defence sector and this is dealt with in further detail later in this Report.

Ensuring that the terms and conditions of serving members of the PDF support the operational needs of the Defence Forces and are fair and balanced is also a key consideration. There are a range of actions outlined in the White Paper on Defence aimed at advancing this goal. The criteria for extending service beyond 12 years was revised during 2018 and an examination of retirement ages for enlisted personnel prioritised, while the Defence Forces also introduced further initiatives to enhance work-life balance during the year. Progress was also made with separate White Paper commitments to implement a competency framework for recruitment, development, performance management and promotion, and to incorporate a scheme of commissioning officers from enlisted personnel ranks.

FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN THE PDF

As of December 31st 2018, the number of female personnel in the PDF stood at 601, 6.7% of serving personnel. This comprised of 499 female Army personnel, 34 female Air Corps personnel and 68 female Naval Service personnel.

The Programme for a Partnership Government, agreed in 2016, set as a target the goal of doubling the rate of female participation from 6% to 12% over a five-year period. A total of 32 female General Service Recruits and 10

female Cadets were inducted in 2018. This represented 6.5% of the General Service intake and 13.51% of Cadet inductions, respectively.

RESERVE DEFENCE FORCE STRENGTH

The Reserve Defence Force (RDF) consists of the First Line Reserve (FLR), the Army Reserve (AR) and the Naval Service Reserve (NSR). In accordance with the White Paper on Defence, the primary role of the RDF is to augment the PDF in crisis situations and to contribute to State ceremonial events.

The strength of the FLR as at December 31st 2018, was 288 personnel. The effective strengths of the AR and the NSR were 1,666 and 133 personnel respectively.

FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN THE AR AND NSR

As of December 31st 2018, the number of female personnel (effective) serving in the AR and NSR was 241. Of these 219 served in the AR while 22 served in the NSR.

SPECIALIST RESERVE

The merged White Paper implementation projects focusing on the commitment to conduct a skills survey to identify individuals in the RDF with relevant professional qualifications and availability, and to establish a Specialist Reserve, were paused pending completion of a related PDF skills-gap survey project.

HLPPG OUTPUT AND MAJOR PROCUREMENT IN 2018

Throughout 2018, the High Level Planning and Procurement Group (HLPPG) approved a number of major equipment procurement projects including the acquisition of force protection equipment for overseas service, the procurement of chemical and explosive detection equipment for Explosive Ordnance Disposal units and the upgrade of the Field Artillery Fire Control Computer System. Amongst the projects progressed were the mid-life maintenance and upgrade programme in respect of the Army's fleet of MOWAG Armoured Personnel Carriers which is well underway and will extend the utility of the fleet and provide greater levels of protection, mobility and firepower; the procurement of a number of armoured logistics vehicles for overseas service; and the ongoing upgrade of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal robot. The acquisition of ammunition for training and overseas deployments also continued throughout the year, including the purchase of Bolide missiles for the recently upgraded RBS70 Surface to Air Missile system.

Work commenced in early 2018 on the build and fit out of three new PC-12 fixed wing utility aircraft suitably equipped for Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance tasks. These aircraft, when delivered, will replace the Air Corps' fleet of Cessna aircraft purchased in 1972.

In addition, in 2018 the procurement process commenced for the purchase of two new Maritime Patrol Aircraft to replace two CASA 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft. The new aircraft, when delivered, will enhance the Air Corps'

maritime surveillance capability and will also provide a greater degree of utility for transport and cargo carrying tasks.

The most significant investment in recent years has been the procurement of the new Offshore Patrol Vessels for the Naval Service. Three new ships were delivered from 2014 to 2016, and a contract for a fourth ship was placed in 2016 at a cost of €54.3m, bringing investment in the programme to over €250m since 2010. The fourth ship was delivered in late 2018 and will be named after the renowned playwright George Bernard Shaw when formally commissioned in 2019. Meanwhile, work commenced during 2018 on a White Paper project to replace LÉ Eithne with a new Multi-Role Vessel enabled for helicopter operations and with freight carrying capacity.

Transport related procurement also continued in 2018. The main acquisitions included 24 armoured utility vehicles, 10 armoured combat service support vehicles, 20 minibuses, 22 saloons, 61 logistics vehicles and two recovery vehicles. In addition, funding was provided on a continuous basis for the required maintenance of vehicles in the military transport fleet, both at home and overseas.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT IN 2018

Built infrastructure projects are developed as part of the ongoing Defence Forces Built Infrastructure Programme. The programme is designed to modernise and enhance the training, operational and accommodation facilities available to members of the Defence Forces. It is based on operational requirements and is compiled on a priority needs basis.

In 2018, circa €10.2m was spent on building works in military installations and barracks across the country under the capital element of the programme. The capital element of the programme focuses mainly on infrastructural projects comprising the construction of new buildings and the refurbishment of existing buildings and facilities. In any one year the programme provides for new start projects and for the continuation of capital building projects already underway from prior years. At the end of 2018, some €42.8m worth of capital projects were at various stages from design tender to construction, including:

- Upgrade and replacement of a major secure storage facility in the Defence Forces Training Centre; €10.8m
- Construction of new gymnasia at Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick and at Stephens Barracks Kilkenny; €6m
- Upgrade and refurbishment works to the Cookhouse and Dining Hall in Custume Barracks, Athlone; €4.2m
- Locker Block refurbishment in Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin; €3.8m
- Upgrade and refurbishment works to the Apprentice Hostel in Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel, Co. Dublin; €3.3m
- Upgrade of accommodation Blocks B & D at Pearse Barracks in the Curragh; €3.2m
- Upgrade of fire detection and firefighting system at the Oil Wharf, Naval Base in Haulbowline €2.4m
- Upgrade of accommodation in Blocks 1 and 2 at Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, Dublin; €2.3m
- Upgrade of Block 7 accommodation facility in Connolly Barracks at the Defence Forces Training Centre; €2.2m

In addition to major capital projects, there are ongoing works required under the programme to ensure the upkeep and repair of buildings and provide facilities generally for personnel. These works are charged as current expenditure under the programme and the amount spent in 2018 amounted to circa. €7.6m.

In accordance with the White Paper on Defence, work on the development of a five-year infrastructure development plan was progressed during 2018 as was a report exploring the potential for the development of renewable energy solutions.

CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A joint civil-military project team, established as a result of a White Paper commitment, continued to make progress during 2018 on the production of a Capability Development Plan. When completed, this will underpin the capacity of the Defence Forces to continue to fulfil all roles assigned by Government.

REVIEW OF HIGH-LEVEL COMMAND AND CONTROL

Also arising from a commitment made in the White Paper, a joint civil-military project team made progress during 2018 on a review of high-level Command and Control pertaining to the Defence Forces. As part of the review, the project team examined existing command structures and also carried out an analysis of approaches followed in other states.

DEFENCE ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE

Three White Paper projects are being progressed by the Defence Organisation to further develop the Defence Enterprise Initiative. One of these projects, which involved the development of an Intellectual Property Policy for the Defence Organisation, was finalised in October 2018. Work on the other two projects, which involve developing a strategy for the Initiative and setting up a Security and Defence Enterprise Group with the support of Enterprise Ireland, also continued.

In 2018 meetings continued to take place between the Defence Organisation and Enterprise Ireland in the form of the Defence Enterprise Committee; while the Defence Organisation also provided assistance to Enterprise Ireland and Enterprise Ireland companies throughout the year.

The Defence Forces also continued to participate in three Horizon 2020 projects of relevance to capability development. Horizon 2020 is the largest EU research and innovation programme on record with almost €80 billion of funding available over seven years (2014-2020).

TRAINING AND EDUCATION OUTPUTS DURING 2018

The primary focus of the Defence Forces, when not on operations, is training and education. During 2018, this continued to be central to capability development. Table 2.1 summarises the outputs delivered by the Defence Forces' Training and Education Branch during the year.

Table 2.1: Details of Training Courses completed during 2018

	Instructor	Skills	Career	Totals
Number of Courses	33	1,035	37	1,105
Number of Students	350	12,680	778	13,808

Career progression in the Defence Forces is facilitated by successful completion of the relevant primary career progression courses. During 2018, a total of 509 personnel completed 17 primary career progression courses across a range of areas, as illustrated in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Details of Primary Career Courses conducted

Course Title	No. of Courses	No. of Students
Potential NCO (Naval Service)	1	20
Potential NCO (Army)	2	133
Potential NCO (Air Corps)	1	25
Logistics Accountancy Course	1	20
Standard NCO Course (Naval Service)	1	10
Standard NCO Course (All Corps)	3	59
All Arms Standard NCO Course	2	100
Senior NCO Course	1	50
Young Officers Course (All Corps)	2	17
Junior Command and Staff Course	2	54
Senior Command and Staff Course	1	21
Totals	17	509

RECRUIT INDUCTION TRAINING

In 2018, a total of 492 Permanent Defence Force (PDF)* and 129 Reserve Defence Force (RDF) recruits were inducted into the Defence Forces as per the breakdown provided in Table 2.3 which also provides comparison with recent years.

Table 2.3: Details of Recruit Induction Training during 2016, 2017 and 2018

	PDF*			RDF		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
1 Brigade	203	231	187	47	51	51
2 Brigade	243	222	168	17	41	49
Defence Forces Training Centre	55	100	43	11	25	16
Naval Service	89	62	94	--	22	13
Totals	590	615	492	75	139	129

* Excluding Air Corps Apprentices, Military Medicine Officers and Direct Entry Naval Officers.

TRAINING FOR OVERSEAS

The conduct of essential Pre-Deployment Training, for both units and individuals being deployed to overseas missions, including UNIFIL, UNDOF and EUTM Mali, was coordinated by Defence Forces' Training and Education Branch in collaboration with the Military College in the Defence Forces Training Centre (DFTC) during 2018. In addition, four Mission Readiness Exercises were conducted for larger troop deployments to UNIFIL and UNDOF involving 1,056 troops before deployment to their respective mission areas.

The Defence Forces also engaged in external and foreign training and education activities during 2018 to facilitate organisational learning and to ensure that training, education and capability development gaps are identified and addressed. This engagement ensures that the Defence Forces remain up-to-date with regard to best international practice in terms of military thinking and practice and ensures that the Defence Forces remains interoperable at home and overseas.

RESERVE DEFENCE FORCE (RDF) TRAINING

The Reserve Defence Force continued to prepare and train for its role in augmenting the Permanent Defence Force in times of crisis. The focus during 2018 continued to be on implementation and further development of the Single Force concept. The funding available for RDF training in 2018 was maintained at a level to support planned training and a total of 1,091 Reservists utilised 19,351 paid man-days in pursuit of professional development through career courses, continuous professional development seminars and participation in integrated exercises.

LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND DEFENCE STUDIES PROGRAMME

During 2018, the Leadership, Management and Defence Studies (LMDS) Programme for enlisted personnel continued to develop and to be a source of success for the Defence Forces and its members. On November 1st, 204 personnel were conferred with awards by the Institute of Technology (IT) Carlow, including 125 with a Higher Level Certificate in LMDS (Level 6), 37 with a Minor Award in LMDS (Level 7) and 42 being conferred with a BA (LMDS) (Level 7). This brings the total number of personnel conferred with awards by IT Carlow relating to the LMDS Programme to over 1,100 since its inception in 2012. The Defence Forces Training and Education Branch continues to promote the benefits of the Programme among soldiers, sailors and airmen of 3* rank and to attract them to join the LMDS Programme. In 2018, the number of Defence Forces personnel who have joined the Programme rose to 2,826.

In addition, NUI Maynooth conferred 86 Special Purpose Awards at Level 7 (LMDS) associated with Cadet training, 47 Higher Diplomas (Leadership, Defence and Contemporary Security Studies) associated with the Junior Command and Staff Course, and 22 MAs (LMDS) associated with the Senior Command and Staff Course. Meanwhile, the National Maritime College of Ireland conferred Leadership, Management and Naval Studies awards, at Level 6, to 25 personnel.

A further six Officers were conferred at Level 9 through the various Army Corps' Young Officer courses.

ARMY RANGER WING

A joint civil-military project team, established to examine the capabilities of the Army Ranger Wing with a view to further enhancing and increasing the strength of the unit, continued to progress its work during 2018.

MEDICAL SERVICES REVIEW

Arising from the difficulty in recruiting medical professionals to the Medical Corps, a review of how medical services are delivered continued during 2018. This is led by a joint civil-military Standing Committee which has implemented solutions to a number of service delivery areas in recent years.

The Standing Committee, which is tasked with advancing the development of a sustainable integrated medical service and addressing the appropriate means of delivering key medical capabilities, made progress on a number of fronts during 2018. Significant progress was made on the tendering process for GP services, with a contract due to be placed in early 2019. A review of the Defence Forces physiotherapy service was close to completion at the end of the year, with dental and pharmacy services reviews also being progressed. Two more participants commenced the five year Military Medicine Training Scheme, designed to give specialisms in GP and Military Medicine, bringing to four the total number enrolled by the end of the year. Also, a Service Level Agreement with the HSE National Ambulance Service, to facilitate clinical skills maintenance for Defence Forces paramedics, successfully completed its first year in operation.

LEGISLATION

During 2018 work continued in relation to the preparation of the following Bills:

- **Defence Forces (Evidence) Bill**

The drafting of this technical piece of legislation continued during 2018 and it is anticipated that Government approval for the publication of the Bill will be sought in 2019.

- **Defence (Amendment) Bill**

The General Scheme of a Bill was approved by Government in September 2018 and subsequently forwarded to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for drafting. The Bill will provide for further revision of the Defence Acts in relation to the deployment of military personnel overseas and other matters.

- **Red Cross Bill**

Work continued on the preparation of revised heads of a Bill to update the Red Cross Acts 1938 to 1954.

Work also continued during 2018, in conjunction with the military authorities, on the amendment and modernisation of various Defence Force Regulations made pursuant to the Defence Act 1954.

Strategic Goal - EFFICIENT AND INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Comprehensive details of Defence Vote expenditure and Army Pensions Vote expenditure during 2018 are provided at Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this Report while Section 4.3 contains details of the volume of transactions processed.

In terms of compliance with Prompt Payment obligations, 99.6% of all payments made in 2018, within the Defence Sector, were paid within 30 days, with 93.2% of all payments being made within 15 days. Prompt Payment interest of €1,102.40 for late payments was paid on 139 invoices (totalling €154,302) in accordance with the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 (Late Payments in Commercial Transactions Regulations, 2002).

SUMMARY OF SPENDING REVIEW 2018

The *2018 Spending Review of Defence Forces Pensions Expenditure* was carried out as part of the 2018 round of spending reviews and was undertaken jointly by officials from Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of Defence. Briefly, the Review came to the following conclusions:

- Defence Forces pensions expenditure – and pensioner numbers – have been increasing progressively year on year; and this trend is forecast to continue in the short to medium term.
- Military pensions expenditure – in common with public service pensions generally – is demand-driven and non-discretionary; so it cannot be arrested or reversed in the same way as may be possible with other aspects of Exchequer expenditure.
- Defence Forces superannuation arrangements differ in a number of key respects to the wider public service. These distinctions include earlier and more unpredictable retirement turnover with entitlement to immediate pension benefit, and atypical faster rates of benefit accrual. These factors make it more difficult to accurately predict annual funding requirements in any given year.
- Funding allocated in the annual Estimates process for Defence Forces pension benefits has proved insufficient in recent years. This has led to an annual requirement for a Supplementary Estimate, largely met through identified savings from the Defence Vote – Vote 36.

In noting the Supplementary Estimates that have been required in the past, the Spending Review recommended that the Army Pensions Vote (Vote 35) should be allocated resources, in line with the cost analysis in the Review, from 2019 onwards to ensure that the full cost can be met. In Budget 2019, an extra €10m was allocated in the 2019 Estimates for the Army Pensions Vote.

INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

During 2018, Inventory Management continued preparation for migration to Financial Management Shared Services (FMSS), began a review of regulations pertaining to disposals and a review of the overall disposal process. A

review of units/sub-unit accounts, along with the day to day operations of the Oracle financials and inventory management system was also commenced. Ongoing inspections were conducted throughout 2018.

Inventory Management completed the Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) coding project in preparation for migration to FMSS.

The rollout of the Defence Forces' Stock Management Policy continued during 2018.

LITIGATION

The Department's Litigation Branch manages cases taken against the Minister for Defence, including Personal Injuries Claims, Judicial Reviews, Plenary Summonses and Civil Bills. In doing so, the Branch works closely with both the State Claims Agency (SCA) and the Chief State Solicitor's Office (CSSO). During 2018, the Branch continued to participate on the Risk Management Liaison Group, which is chaired by the Assistant Chief of Staff and whose members also include representatives from the Defence Forces and the State Claims Agency. Chart 2.2 and Table 2.4 provide details of the position in relation to all litigation cases handled during 2018.

Chart 2.2: Details of Litigation cases during 2018

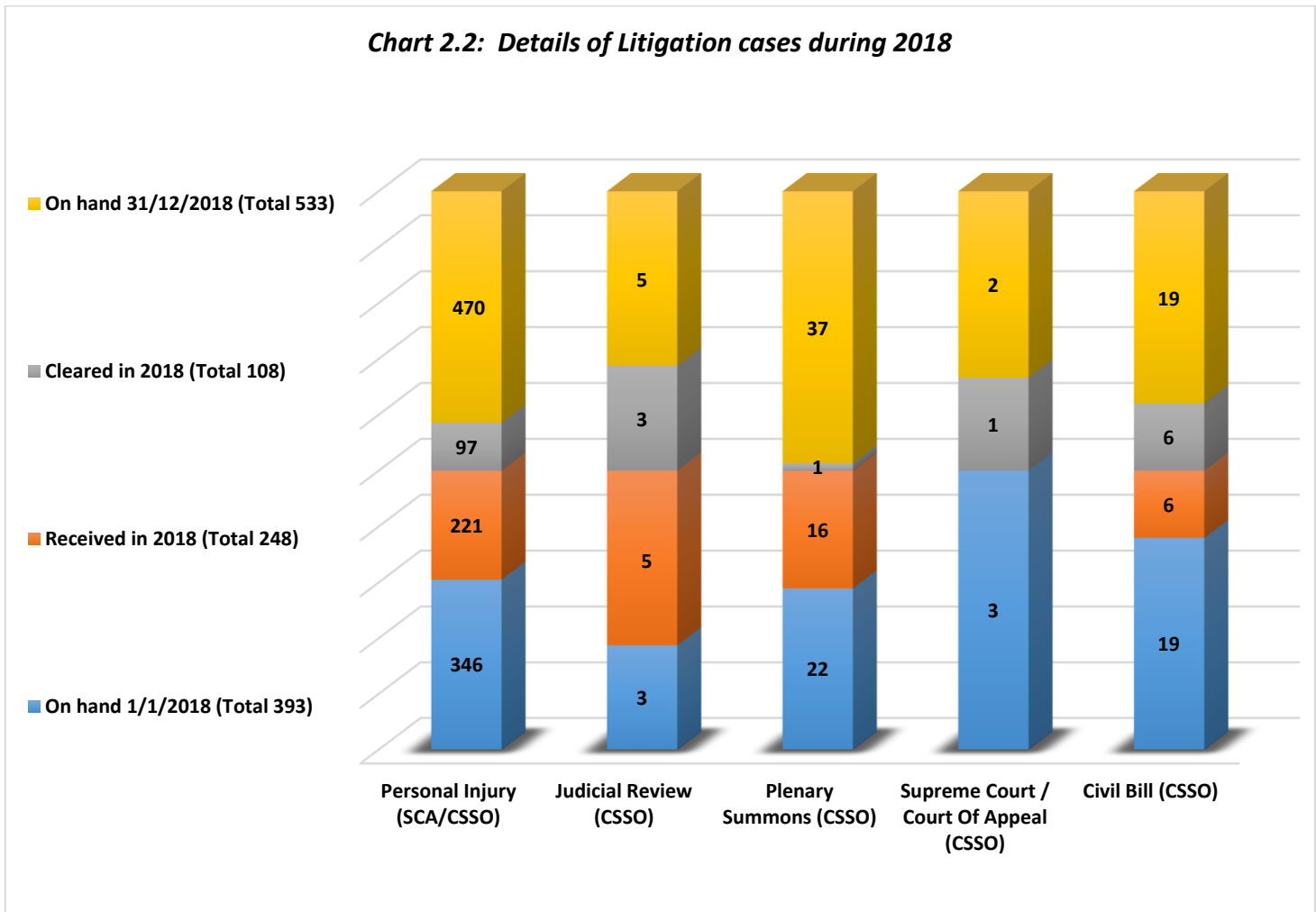


Table 2.4: Details of Litigation expenditure during 2016, 2017 and 2018

	CSSO			SCA			Other			Total		
	Employment			Personal Injury			Miscellaneous					
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Settlements	149,233	188,820	399,976	2,155,041	1,979,491	3,374,961	--	--	--	2,304,274	2,168,311	3,774,937
Plaintiff Legal Costs	299,346	131,083	420,113	684,639	782,114	1,900,846	--	--	--	983,985	913,197	2,320,959
Medical Costs	--	--	0	83,618	86,731	95,298	--	--	--	83,618	86,731	95,298
Agency Solicitors Fees	--	--	0	205,013	152,203	317,007	--	--	--	205,013	152,203	317,007
Agency Counsel Fees	--	--	0	132,713	222,969	459,144	--	--	--	132,713	222,969	459,144
Injuries Board Assessment Fees	--	--	0	17,400	7,800	21,369	--	--	--	17,400	7,800	21,369
Miscellaneous Costs	--	--	0	61,794	100,115	78,565	40,661	6,528	2,277	102,455	106,643	80,842
DMP Legal Costs	--	--	0	--	--	0	70,536	109,198	30,788	70,536	109,198	30,788
Totals	€448,579	€319,903	€820,089	€3,340,218	€3,331,423	€6,247,190	€111,197	€115,726	€33,065	€3,899,994	€3,767,052	€7,100,344

IRISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

The Department of Defence made an annual grant payment of €900,000 to the Irish Red Cross Society in 2018, which included a contribution of €770,000 towards the salary and administration costs of running the Society's headquarters. The remaining €130,000 represented Ireland's contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In January 2018, the Government established a temporary emergency humanitarian support scheme for small businesses and community, sporting and voluntary bodies who, through no fault of their own, could not obtain flood insurance but experienced flood damage to their premises following Storm Eleanor. The Irish Red Cross administered the scheme and 48 applications were received. A total of €343,000 was paid out under this scheme, to 41 successful applicants.

In November 2018, the Government established a standing scheme to deal with any further similar flooding events. The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation will be responsible for the standing scheme.

Strategic Goal - DEVELOP MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES, ORGANISATION AND PEOPLE

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION

A scheme of Conciliation and Arbitration (C&A) for members of the PDF provides a formal mechanism for the Representative Associations, i.e. RACO (for officers) and PDFORRA (for enlisted personnel) to engage with the Official side on matters which come within the scope of the scheme.

REVIEW OF THE CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION SCHEME

In light of the many changes in the industrial relations landscape since the inception of the scheme in the early 1990s, the Minister with Responsibility for Defence initiated a fundamental review of the scheme in early 2018. The report of the review of the scheme was published on October 2nd 2018 and is available at <https://www.defence.ie/en/news/publications>. The parties to the scheme subsequently commenced a process to implement the recommendations in a revised scheme.

REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS (RACO)

During 2018, RACO lodged eleven new claims at Conciliation Council, which were discussed at six Council meetings. There were six Pay & Allowance Sub-committee meetings during 2018. There were two agreed and five disagreed reports also signed during the year.

There was one adjudication hearing and one facilitation process in 2018 arising from claims received through the Conciliation and Arbitration process.

PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE OTHER RANKS REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION (PDFORRA)

PDFORRA lodged nine new claims at Conciliation Council during 2018. These claims were addressed at five Council meetings and six Pay & Allowances Sub-committee meetings during the year. There were also six agreed reports and five disagreed reports signed in 2018.

Two adjudication hearings and one arbitration board hearing arose during 2018 from claims received through the Conciliation & Arbitration process.

PUBLIC SERVICE STABILITY AGREEMENT 2018-2020

The Public Service Stability Agreement 2018-2020 provides for increases in pay ranging from 6.2% to 7.4% over the lifetime of the Agreement. The focus of these increases is weighted in favour of those on lower pay. A 1% increase on annualised salaries with effect from January 1st 2018 and a further 1% increase with effect from October 1st 2018 were paid to PDF personnel. Further increases in annualised salaries are scheduled for 2019 and 2020.

PUBLIC SERVICE PAY COMMISSION

The Public Service Stability Agreement 2018-2020 provides that the Public Service Pay Commission will conduct a comprehensive examination and analysis of underlying difficulties in recruitment and retention in those sectors and employment streams identified in the Commission's Report of May 2017. This includes specific challenges in the Defence sector.

In order to assist the Commission in their analysis, the Department of Defence was requested to provide specific data. A civil and military team was tasked with collating this material. An initial tranche of material was forwarded

to the Commission, through the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, in April 2018. This material focused on pilots in the Air Corps.

Further material in relation to the broader Defence sector was forwarded in Quarter 3 to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform which has responsibility for the coordination of the data request on behalf of Public Service Employers. There was subsequent further engagement with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform prior to the material being submitted to the Public Service Pay Commission on December 20th 2018. The Commission is due to report in 2019.

GENDER, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE DEFENCE FORCES

Throughout 2018, the Defence Forces Second Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security continued to institutionalise a gender perspective, to co-ordinate professional development and training in this field, and to monitor the application of UNSCR 1325 across all Defence Forces activities both at home and abroad. Briefing in relation to gender in military operations briefs is included at all levels of the organisation, namely within induction, career course and overseas pre-deployment training. This included the Command & Staff and Adjutant Courses as well as Overseas Qualifications courses. During 2018, gender trained personnel were also deployed with all PDF troop rotations to UNDOF, UNIFIL and OP SOPHIA while the White Paper commitment to explore the contribution of gender focussed measures in peacekeeping, particularly in relation to the appropriate deployment of female personnel, was also progressed.

The Defend with Pride Support Network continued to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allies (LGBTQA) throughout 2018. The Defence Forces Women's Network (DFWN) continued its activities throughout 2018, including facilitated meetings within each Brigade/Formation as well as a series of Defence Forces wide events. The aim of the Network is to support females in their work, leading to greater female participation at all levels.

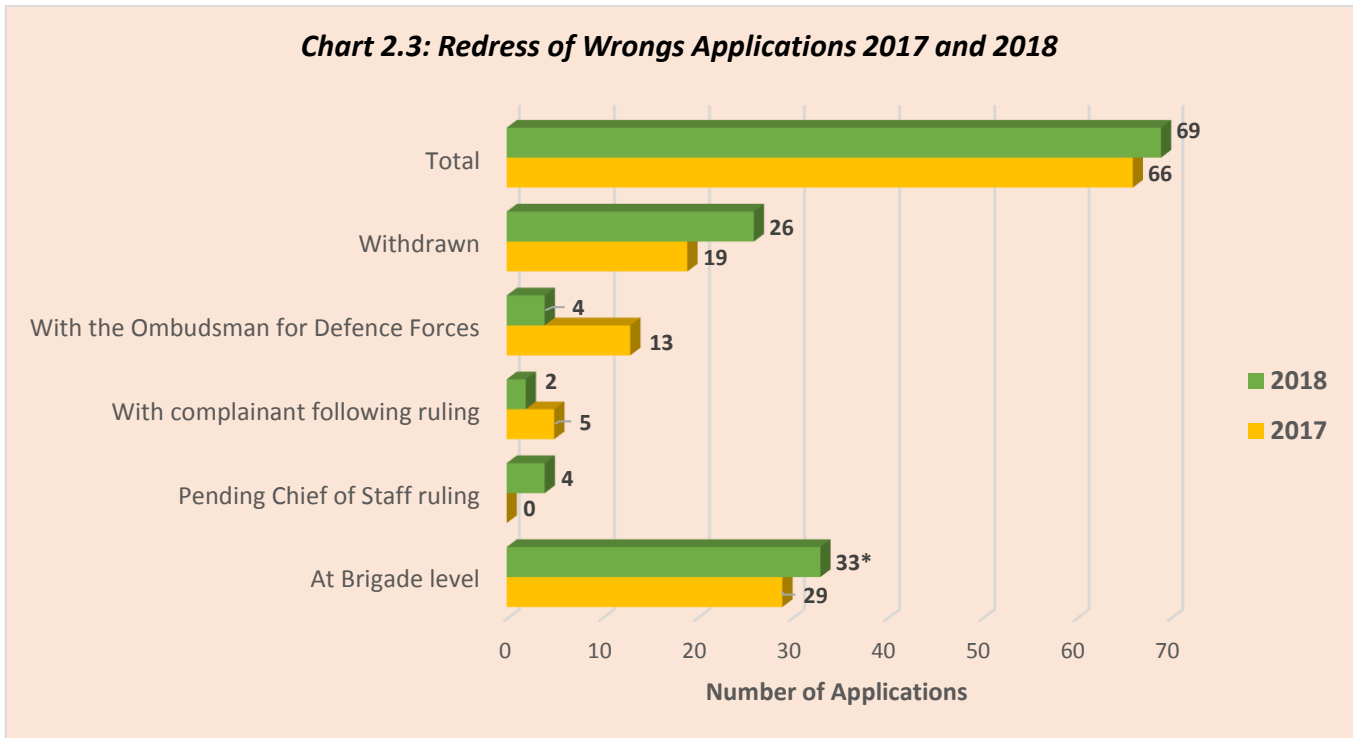
Implementation of the Defence Forces Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Statement and Action Plan continued in 2018 with a review scheduled for 2019. Furthermore, two separate White Paper implementation projects, aimed at developing manpower planning requirements to deliver an efficient and effective workforce mix, and to raise awareness and attract recruits from all backgrounds to reflect the society they serve, were completed during 2018.

INDEPENDENT MONITORING GROUP

The Independent Monitoring Group (IMG) was established in May 2002 to oversee the implementation of recommendations arising from a report on the extent of harassment, bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment within the Defence Forces. Reports of the IMG issued in 2004, 2008 and 2014. The third IMG Report, from 2014, focused on developments since 2008 and made a total of 35 recommendations. The position at the end of 2018 was that of the 35 recommendations contained in the Report, 30 have been closed, four are ongoing and one remains to be addressed. In addition, a further five actions had been added to the original 35 and the final one of these was closed during 2018.

REDRESS OF WRONGS

Chart 2.3 provides end of year details in respect of Redress of Wrongs applications received during 2018 with 2017 figures also provided for comparison.



* including nine where Chief Of Staff has ruled

OMBUDSMAN FOR THE DEFENCE FORCES

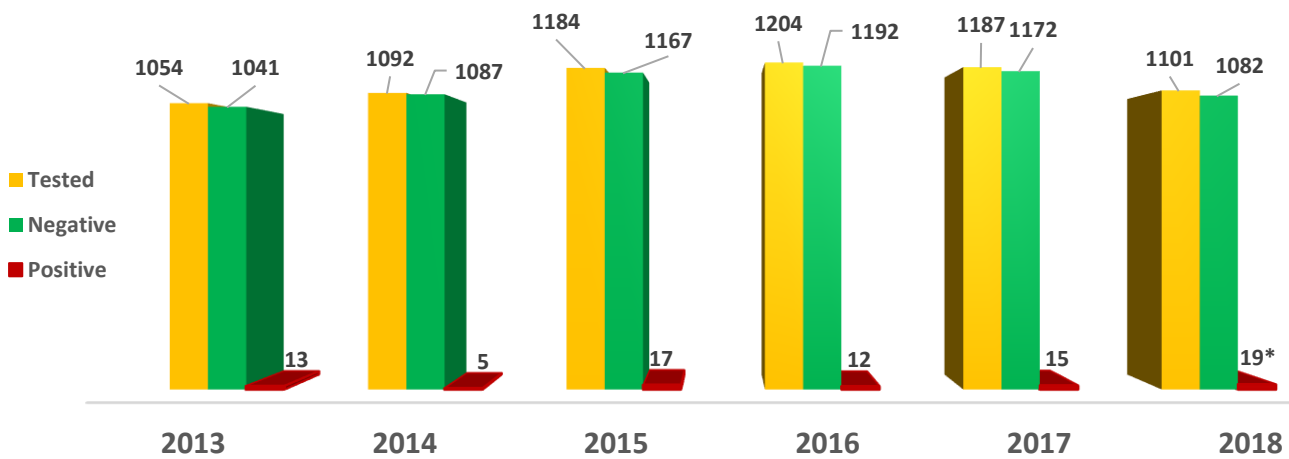
With effect from July 6th 2018, and following an open competition run by the Public Appointments Service, Mr. Justice Alan Mahon was appointed as the new Ombudsman for the Defence Forces, for a three year period.

DRUG TESTING DURING 2018

In 2018, the Defence Forces drug testing team conducted random drug tests across various locations, testing 1,101 personnel. Of these, there were 19 positive results. Details of drug testing are provided in Charts 2.4 and 2.5 below, along with comparisons with recent years.

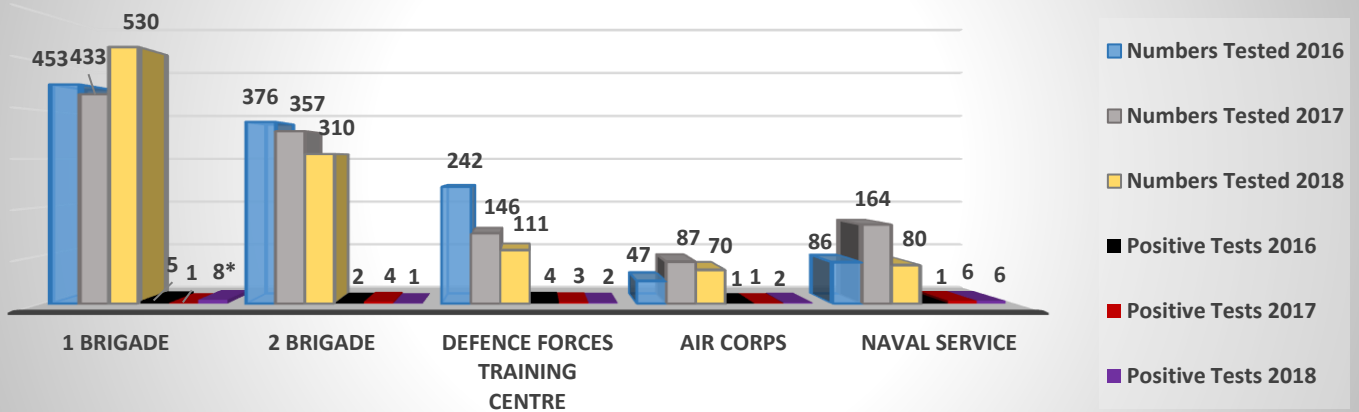
In terms of targeted drug testing, four personnel were in the targeted drug testing programme at the start of 2018, while an additional four personnel joined the programme during the year. Of these eight personnel, three completed the process and were retained in service, two tested positive for controlled drugs substances and re-entered the administrative process, and as of December 31st 2018, there were three persons remaining in the targeted drugs testing process.

Chart 2.4: Details of Compulsory Random Drug Tests from 2013 to 2018



* 17 positive results and two "Failure to Report".

Chart 2.5: Compulsory Random Drug Tests by location in 2016, 2017 and 2018



* Including two positives in 2018 under heading "Failure to Report".

SUPPORT TO VETERANS GROUPS

During 2018, quarterly meetings were held with the recognised veterans associations. The Minister with Responsibility for Defence attended the meetings held in December with the Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE) and the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA). Matters of interest to veterans were discussed at these meetings. The Minister also met with the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO) and attended the 5th annual Defence Forces Veterans Day which took place in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin, on May 13th.

The Government remains committed to supporting and providing funding to ONE and IUNVA. During the year, the annual grant to ONE was increased from €44,000 to €100,000, while the annual grant paid to IUNVA was €11,000 in 2018.

CIVIL SERVICE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

During 2018, training was provided for 1,706 participants on training courses, at conferences/seminars, briefings, and lunch and learn events, reflecting the Department's culture and prioritisation of employee learning and development. Expenditure on Learning and Development during the year was €219,556. The Department's commitment to supporting the Civil Service shared learning model, One Learning, continued in 2018 and the Learning and Development Unit completed training for the roll out of the new Learning Management System. The Department continued to ensure Defence sector learning requirements were also addressed, as required.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Department of Defence and the Defence Forces are committed to the provision of the highest standard of Customer Service to the individuals and organisations with whom they interact. The Department of Defence and Defence Forces' Customer Charter sets out the standards for the provision of service in accordance with the principles of quality Customer Service, as approved by Government. During 2018, the Department was contacted on a total of 233,868 occasions either by telephone, post or e-mail. These included four items of correspondence received in Irish. In summary, 99.4% of correspondence received was acknowledged within three working days and the rate of response within three working weeks was 99.8%

IRISH LANGUAGE SCHEME

The Department of Defence is committed to fulfilling the obligations set out in the Official Languages Act 2003 with regard to the level of service provided through Irish. In 2018, events were held to promote the use of Irish language within the Department. The Department continues to meet its commitments under the Irish Language Scheme regarding services to be provided through the medium of Irish and English.

CIVIL SERVICE RENEWAL PLAN

The Department of Defence continued to contribute to the development and implementation of civil and public service renewal and development programmes. During 2018, the Department reviewed the results of the 2017 Civil Service Employee Engagement Survey and prepared an Action Plan, outlining proposals to address the findings of the survey. The Department was ahead of the Civil Service wide results in many areas of the survey such as training, career development and staff engagement. Many of the issues identified in the survey are being addressed in line with the Department's change management programme; Adapting to a Changing Environment (ACE).

OUR PUBLIC SERVICE 2020

Our Public Service 2020 (OPS2020) establishes the overall strategy for development and innovation in the Public Service to 2020 and beyond. It is designed to build on the significant achievements of previous phases of reform while, in parallel, pursuing new initiatives to further develop the culture of continuous improvement across the Public Service.

As part of OPS2020, the Department of Defence was chosen as the lead in the implementation of one of six identified key priority actions; Action 10 – Embed Programme and Project Management across the public service. The civil-military Joint White Paper Implementation Facilitation Team are facilitating this and during 2018 liaised very closely with other public service bodies and the Project Managers Leaders & Advisory Service (PMLAS). During the year, a team was also established, incorporating members from different sectors across the civil and public service, and a collaborative approach adopted. A Scoping Paper was developed which identified eight initiatives, three of which were prioritised. The three initiatives are:

- (a) Initiative 4: Identify pilot policy/strategic projects to demonstrate the benefits of Programme and Project Management;
- (b) Initiative 6: Develop reach of the current Civil Service Project Manager's Network (CSPM), including with possible sub-networks at public service level; and
- (c) Initiative 7: Handbooks for Programme and Project Management.

Subgroups were also set up to work on the three prioritised initiatives and this work will be ongoing during 2019.

CIVIL SERVANTS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

The number of civil service staff employed by the Department of Defence as at December 31st 2018 was 355².

The Department of Defence employs civilian staff at various military installations to support the upkeep and maintenance of military infrastructure and equipment. The grades employed are spread across a wide spectrum and include craft workers (Electricians, Carpenters, Plumbers, Fitters, Welders etc.), services (General Operatives), administrative (Clerks, Storemen), healthcare professionals (Social Workers, Physiotherapists, Pharmacists) and other specialist grades (Archivists, Aircraft Inspector/Instructor, Technicians, Quantity Surveyors, Draughtsmen).

In 2018, eight civilian appointments were made from external competitions and there were 17 internal promotions. There were 29 competitions held over the course of the year, covering approximately 63 vacancies. As of 31st December 2018, and arising from these competitions, there were an additional 39 candidates in the process of security/medical clearance, prior to appointment. The number of civilian employees, employed by the Department at the end of 2018, excluding those yet to be cleared and appointed, was 431 (424 whole time equivalent).

EQUALITY

The Department of Defence continues to operate in a non-discriminatory environment in accordance with the Equality Acts and aims to ensure that the principles of employment equality are implemented in recruitment, promotion, training and work experience.

² This figure does not include the two special advisers to the Minister.

In compliance with Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005, the Department of Defence undertook, where practicable, to promote and support the employment of people with disabilities. The percentage of civil servants who have self-declared a disability was 4.2% and the percentage of civilian employees with a disability was 6.4% at end of 2018.

The Department's policy is that all personnel be accorded equality of opportunity and treatment and includes a commitment to the implementation of the Government target that one-third of posts in the grade of Assistant Principal are filled by women. In 2018, 39% of Principals and 44% of Assistant Principals were women. Overall, 40% of staff at the grades of Assistant Principal and upwards were filled by women.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) AND SHARED SERVICES

The five year ICT strategy continues to be implemented to address the complex challenges and changes in technologies, service delivery and the evolving security environment.

Throughout 2018, the Department and the Defence Forces worked closely with the National Shared Services Office (NSSO) project team in contributing to the design of the financial and inventory management solution as part of the Financial Management Shared Services (FMSS) project. Personnel from the Department's Finance Branch also actively participated on working groups dealing with the FMSS project.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Procurement is a key element of the Government's public service reform agenda and represents a very significant portion of overall spending. The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) was established to ensure that public procurement is carried out in a co-ordinated and efficient way and delivers sustainable savings for the taxpayer.

During 2018, the Defence Organisation continued to pursue the potential for enhanced cooperation in joint procurement activities through the Defence and Security Sector Category Council, established under the auspices of the OGP. This Category Council is chaired by the Department of Defence and includes representation by personnel with responsibility for procurement from An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Service. The Defence Organisation is also represented on relevant Category Councils for other expenditure portfolios (Health, Education and Local Government). The Defence Organisation uses central framework contracts to acquire goods and services that are common to the Public Service.

The Department of Defence is represented on the OGP Procurement Executive at Principal level, and this met on 10 occasions during 2018.

Section 3: Defence Forces Operational Outputs

Strategic Goal - DELIVER OPERATIONS SUCCESSFULLY

AID TO THE CIVIL POWER

Domestic security is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Equality and An Garda Síochána. The Defence Forces provide Aid to the Civil Power (ATCP) support on request. Table 3.1 provides details of the number and type of ATCP operations where the Defence Forces provided support to An Garda Síochána during 2018 and provides a comparison with recent years.

Table 3.1: Aid to the Civil Power operations 2016-2018

Type of ATCP Operation	Number of Operations		
	2016	2017	2018
Garda Air Support Unit missions	1,350	991	1,131
Central Bank patrols	1,040	1,095	1,095
Airport security duties	396	293	299
Explosive production security guard	366*	365*	365*
Central Bank security guard ³	366*	365*	365*
Prisoner escorts	120	159	130
Explosive Ordnance Disposal callouts	96	100	70
Naval Service diving operations	4	4	5
Explosive escorts	13	8	5
EURO Cash in Transit escorts	8	4	5
Hospital guard	8	14	2
VIP visits	2	2	2
Search operations	--	8	9
Totals	3,769	3,408	3,483

* Refers to days

In addition, the Defence Forces continued to carry out a 365 day armed guard at both Government Buildings and at Portlaoise Prison. These missions arise from Government direction rather than a Garda ATCP request.

OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS [ON PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS]

In planning and supporting overseas operations, the combined engagement of the Defence Forces and Departmental staff is an essential element in the effective management of deployments. This includes reviewing

³ The Department recoups the full economic cost incurred as a result of escort and security services provided to the Central Bank in the previous year. The total cost of this service in 2017 was €1.31m and this amount was received from the Central Bank on October 16th 2018.

potential operations, rotation planning, procurement planning and training. The Department and the Defence Forces work together to ensure the maximisation of options available to Government to meet its international obligations in furtherance of Ireland's foreign and defence policy objectives.

During 2018, 1,696 members of the Permanent Defence Force served overseas in various missions. Table 3.2 provides a breakdown of mission categories and troop deployments on January 1st and December 31st for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Table 3.2: Details of Overseas Postings 2016, 2017 and 2018*

Mission	01 Jan 2016	31 Dec 2016	01 Jan 2017	31 Dec 2017	01 Jan 2018	31 Dec 2018
UNTSO (Middle East)	13	12	12	12	12	12
MINURSO (Western Sahara)	3	3	3	3	3	3
MONUSCO (Democratic Rep Congo)	4	4	4	4	4	4
UNOCI (Cote d'Ivoire)	2	1	1	0	0	0
UNIFIL HQ (Lebanon)	9	30	30	30	30	9
UNIFIL Infantry Battalion (Lebanon)	184	341	341	341	341	443
UNIFIL Sector West HQ (Lebanon)	4	8	8	8	8	8
UNDOF Infantry Group (Golan Heights)	131	130	130	130	130	130
UNDOF HQ (Golan Heights)	8	6	6	6	6	8
SUB-TOTAL (UN)	358	535	535	534	534	617
EUFOR (Bosnia & Herzegovina)	7	7	7	5	5	5
Nordic Battlegroup HQ	0	0	0	0	0	0
German-led Battlegroup 2016	10	10	10	0	0	0
UK-led Battlegroup 2016	5	5	5	0	0	0
EUTM Mali	9	18	18	20	20	20
Operations HQ/Floating HQ (Operation Sophia HQ)	0	0	0	3	3	5
SUB-TOTAL (UN Mandated Missions)	31	40	40	28	28	30
KFOR HQ	12	12	12	12	12	12
RSM (Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan)	7	0	0	0	0	0
SUB-TOTAL (NATO/PfP)	19	12	12	12	12	12
OSCE	2	2	2	1	1	1
SUB-TOTAL (OSCE)	2	2	2	1	1	1
UNNY (New York)	1	1	1	1	1	1
EUMS (Brussels)	3	4	4	4	4	5
NATO/PfP (Belgium)*	5	5	5	5	5	5
Irish Delegation to OSCE (Vienna)	1	1	1	1	1	1
CSDP/PSC (Brussels)**	9	9	9	8	8	11
SUB-TOTAL (MIL. REPS/ADVISERS/STAFF)	19	20	20	19	19	23
TOTAL PERSONNEL OVERSEAS	429	609	609	594	594	683

* Not including Naval Service vessel deployments to the Mediterranean which occurred after the beginning and before the end of each year.

** Both civil and military staff from the Defence Organisation are deployed to CSDP/PSC and NATO/PfP offices in Brussels.

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

In 2018, the Defence Forces served as part of a joint Irish/Finnish Battalion based in Sector West of UNIFIL's area of operations. Since May 2015 an Estonian Platoon has formed part of the Finnish Contingent. Major General Michael Beary acted as Head of Mission and Force Commander, UNIFIL, from July 2016 to August 2018. There were two troop rotations during 2018. In May, the 112th Infantry Battalion replaced the 111th Infantry Battalion and in November the 112th Infantry Battalion was replaced by the 113th Infantry Battalion. Due to other commitments, both Finland and Estonia withdrew from the Battalion in UNIFIL in November 2018.

While efforts continued to source a partner country to replace the Finnish contingent, as a temporary measure 106 additional Defence Forces personnel were deployed to the UNIFIL mission to cover the backfilling of the absent Finnish contingent for a 12 month period from November 2018 to November 2019. The temporary deployment of additional Irish troops allows a period for negotiations to take place with new potential partner countries to replace the Finnish contingent. The Government remains strongly committed to the maintenance of peace and security in Lebanon through our continued participation in UNIFIL.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

The Irish contingent deployed with UNDOF in the Golan Heights is tasked primarily to serve as the Force Mobile Reserve, providing a Quick Reaction Force, which is on standby to assist with on-going operations within the UNDOF area of responsibility. There were two rotations during 2018. In March, the 56th Infantry Group replaced the 55th Infantry Group and in October, the 57th Infantry Group replaced the 56th Infantry Group.

Following significant events that occurred in August 2014 in the area of separation, the UNDOF mission relocated temporarily from Camp Faouar on the Syrian side of the area of separation to Camp Ziouani on the Israeli side of the area of separation. The process to return to the Syrian side of the area of separation commenced in 2016 with the enhancement of force protection measures at Camp Faouar. In March 2018, UNDOF Headquarters returned to Camp Faouar and the Chief of Staff UNDOF, Colonel Michael Dawson, together with seven other members of the Defence Forces, moved with the headquarters. The main Irish contingent, comprising a Force Reserve Company of some 130 personnel, completed their relocation to Camp Faouar in September 2018. The relocation of Irish personnel followed on-going assessment of the security situation in the region and the continued enhancement of the force protection measures and living standards within Camp Faouar.

The UNDOF mission maintains regular contact with the Israeli Defence Forces and Syrian Arab Armed Forces in the context of its role in the area of separation, ensuring the security and safety of its personnel and a common understanding of its role between the parties. The continued presence of the UNDOF mission remains an important element in ensuring stability in the Golan Heights and in the Middle East region and is supported and welcomed by both Israel and Syria.

European Union Force (EUFOR) – Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

Operation 'ALTHEA' in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continues to focus on maintaining a safe and secure environment while overseeing the transfer of military tasks to national authorities. This mission remains an important part of the EU's comprehensive efforts in BiH to support a political process aimed at enabling BiH, on the basis of necessary reforms, to continue to move forward in the EU integration process. Five members of the Defence Forces were deployed to the mission headquarters in Sarajevo during 2018.

European Union Training Mission – EUTM Mali

The objective of this mission is to improve the capacity of the Malian Armed Forces to maintain security in Mali and restore the authority of the Malian Government and the territorial integrity of the Malian State. Alongside standard infantry training, training is being provided in international humanitarian law, the protection of civilians and human rights. A contingent of the Defence Forces personnel has been deployed to EUTM Mali since March 2013. Ireland's contribution to the mission increased from 18 to 20 personnel in June 2017 and remained at this level during 2018. Irish personnel are based in the mission headquarters in Bamako and in Koulikoro Training Centre.

Kosovo Force (KFOR)

Ireland continues to contribute to the UN-authorized and NATO-led Peace Support Operation in Kosovo (KFOR). Twelve Defence Forces personnel served in the KFOR Headquarters in Pristina during 2018.

United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)

Ireland deployed twelve Defence Forces personnel as military observers within the UNTSO Mission area of Lebanon, Syria and Israel during 2018.

NAVAL SERVICE DEPLOYMENT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

The EU Naval Mission, Operation Sophia is primarily a security operation which specifically seeks to counter human trafficking and smuggling in the Southern Central Mediterranean by taking action against the criminal networks and disrupting the smugglers business model.

The Naval Service has been participating in Operation Sophia since October 2017. In accordance with the mandate for the mission, the Naval Service can be involved in surveillance and intelligence gathering operations, search and rescue operations and disposal of migrant boats and force protection operations.

In 2018, the Naval Service deployment as part of Operation Sophia involved two naval vessels (LE Samuel Beckett and LE James Joyce) deployed consecutively during the year for a period of approximately 26 weeks. The deployment ran from mid-April to end-October 2018. The types of tasks undertaken while on deployment as part of Operation Sophia in 2018 included hailings and friendly approaches on merchant vessels, maritime interdiction operations (boardings) on vessels suspected of smuggling/trafficking, in addition to being available to conduct

search and rescue operations as required. In relation to the latter, 106 migrants were rescued by the Naval Service during 2018 as part of Operation Sophia.

ANNIVERSARIES

2018 was a significant year which marked the 70th anniversary of the first UN peacekeeping operation, the 60th anniversary of Ireland’s first participation in UN peacekeeping and the 40th anniversary of Ireland’s first deployment to Lebanon as part of the UNIFIL mission.

A State ceremony took place in Dublin on June 24th 2018 to mark the 60th anniversary of Irish involvement in UN peacekeeping operations. This anniversary was also marked internationally at a ceremony in UN HQ, New York in September 2018.

AID TO THE CIVIL AUTHORITY

During 2018 the Defence Forces were called upon, in accordance with the Framework for Major Emergency Management (MEM), to support the Principal Response Agencies in response to five incidents (see Table 3.3 below). The support included engineering support, the provision of equipment, deployment of air assets and transport assistance. The following table contains details of the locations and the numbers of personnel deployed during 2018.

Table 3.3: Details of ATCA support under Framework for MEM during 2018

Month	Location/Events	Number of personnel deployed
January	Flooding - Galway City, Kilkenny	63
February / March	Storm Emma - Wexford, Kilkenny, Cork, Kerry, Westmeath, Longford, Galway, Roscommon, Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Waterford, Carlow, Dublin, Donegal, Meath, Louth, Laois, Offaly, Sligo, Wicklow & Kildare	2,637
June / July	Gorse Fires - Dublin, Wicklow, Tipperary, Limerick, Wexford, Offaly, Armagh & Down	97
October	Flooding - Galway	62
September	Storm Ali - Longford (power line survey)	2
Total		2,861

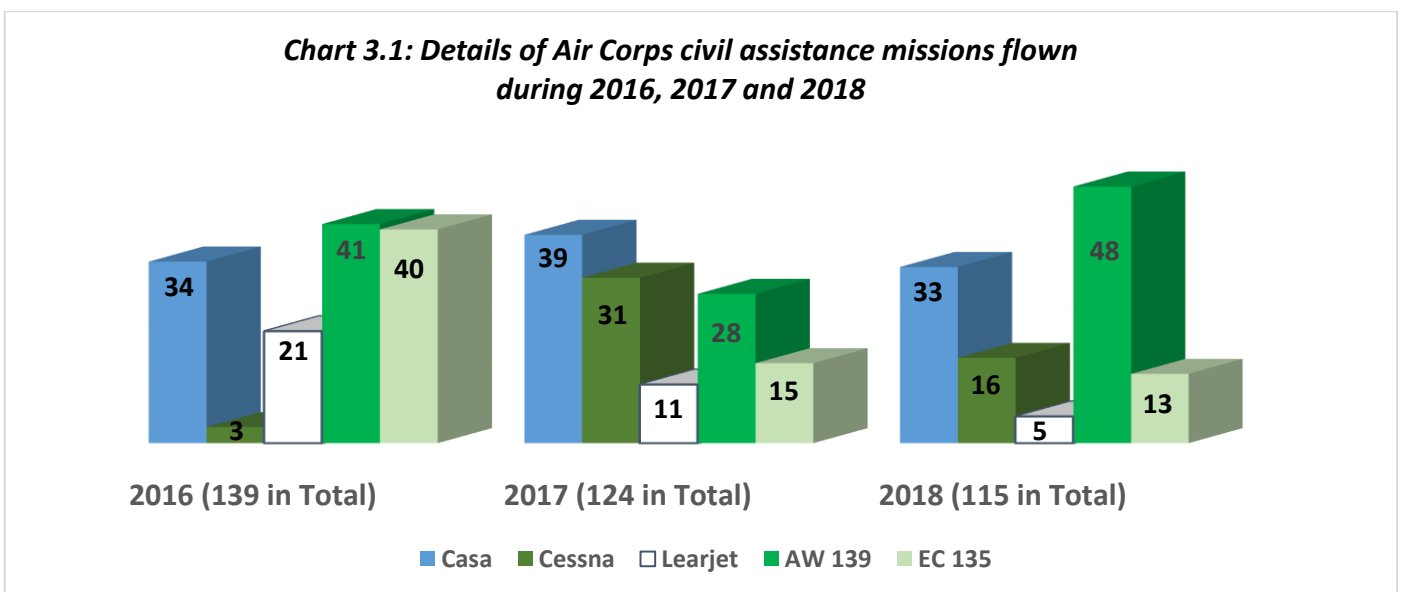
Table 3.4 provides details of the level of support to civil authorities, including other government departments and state agencies, provided by the Naval Service in 2018.

Table 3.4: Details of civil assistance operations undertaken by the Naval Service during 2018

Operations	No of Days.
Naval Service ship, tasked by Irish Coast Guard (IRCG), to standby a fishing vessel, Ocean Pioneer, experiencing full loss of power off the west coast.	2
Naval Service ship tasked by IRCG to standby a fishing vessel, Primrose, experiencing full loss of power off the west coast.	2
Naval Service ship tasked by IRCG as on scene coordinator for missing kite-surfer off west coast.	1
Naval Service ship provided initial response to seven search and rescue incidents.	7
Naval Service Reserve provided rigid-inflatable boat (RIB) support to National Monuments Service on Lough Corrib.	7
Naval Service ship on patrol conducted water sampling at the request of the Environmental Protection Agency.	2
Total number of days	21

Chart 3.1 provides details of the level of support to civil authorities, including other government departments and state agencies, provided by the Air Corps during 2018, with details for 2016 and 2017 also provided for comparison purposes. Such missions include search and rescue support to the Irish Coast Guard, delivery and collection of ballot boxes to and from the islands, flood relief missions, response to major accidents, bog surveys and wildlife surveys.

These missions also include the inter-hospital Air Ambulance Service which provides for emergency transfers of patients and transport of emergency organ retrieval teams, including paediatric organ transplant transfers to the UK. The HSE's Aeromedical Desk in its National Emergency Operations Centre is responsible for the co-ordination of the transport arrangements for these patients.



FISHERY PROTECTION

Fishery protection services provided during 2018 were based on outputs agreed with the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA). Throughout the year, the Naval Service worked in close cooperation and with the encouragement of the SFPA in relation to a re-emphasis of a risk based approach to fishery protection to better utilise resources, that is, delivering fewer boardings but of a much higher quality. During the year, the Naval Service carried out a total of 1,076 fishery patrol days while the Air Corps carried out a total of 184 separate patrols. Charts 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 and Table 3.5 provide details of Air Corps and Naval Service patrol activities during 2018 with details for 2016 and 2017 also provided for comparison purposes. The Cessna aircraft, which in previous years carried out inshore patrols, were withdrawn from operational tasks during 2018.

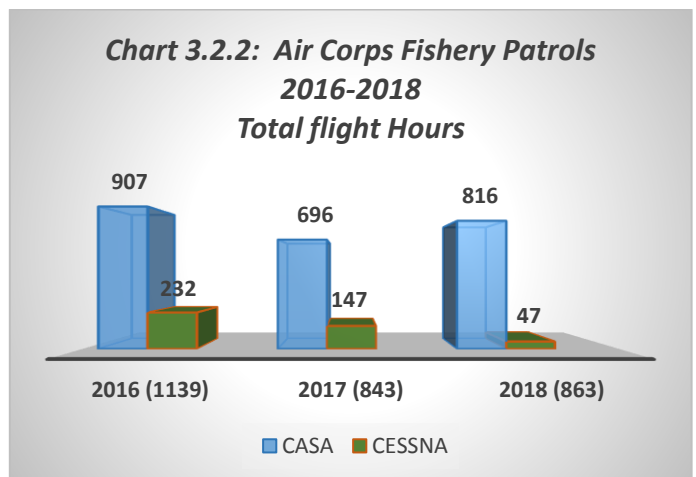
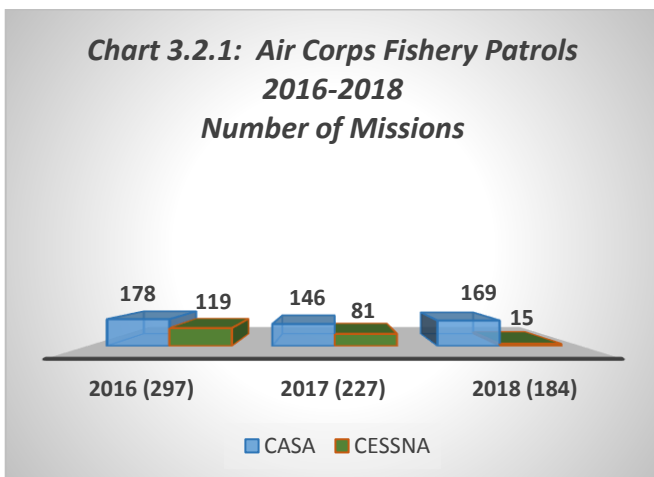
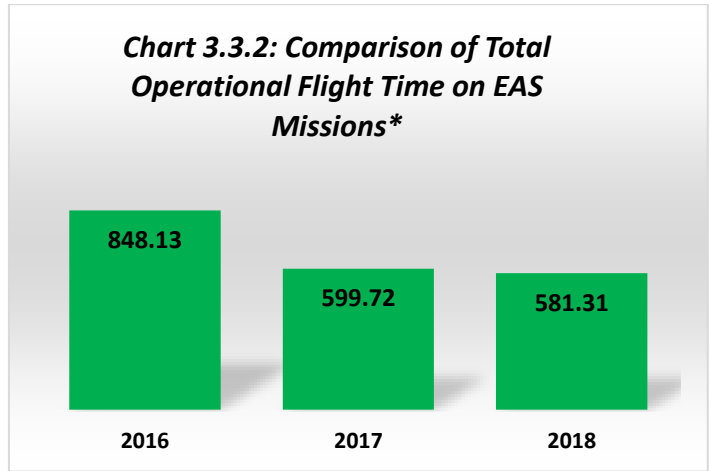
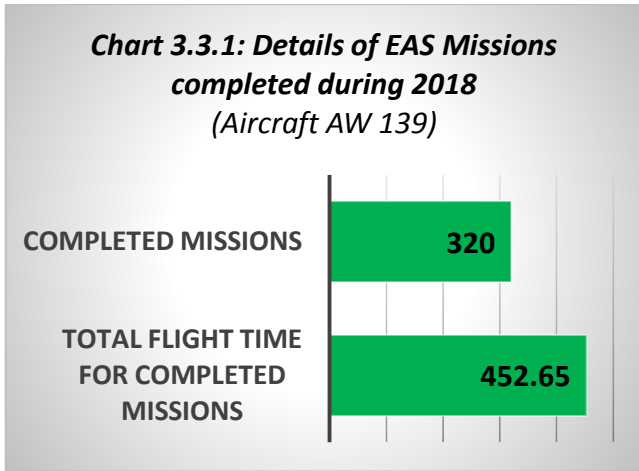


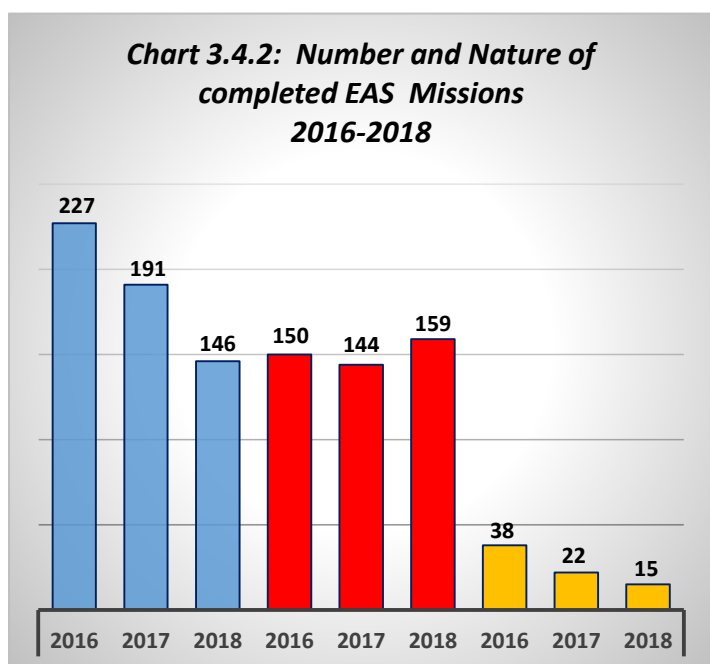
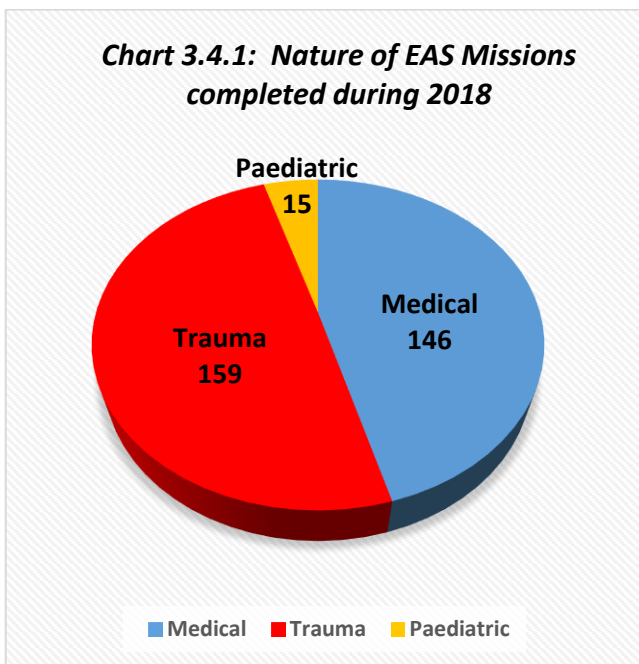
Table 3.5: Details of Naval Service fishery protection activity during 2016, 2017 and 2018

Fishing Vessel Nationality	Sightings			Boardings			Detentions			Infringements		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Irish	686	791	576	605	634	399	2	5	3	2	12	1
Spanish	295	255	220	246	207	161	0	0	2	0	0	1
UK	150	127	95	136	108	68	1	1	2	2	2	1
French	268	272	142	241	220	99	0	0	0	0	2	1
Belgian	3	16	10	2	15	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
German	7	13	4	4	11	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dutch	18	15	11	10	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portuguese	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russian	14	25	8	2	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norwegian	3	3	5	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faroese	2	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Icelandic	1	0	3	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvian	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Danish	0	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,448	1,520	1,083	1,249	1,221	762	3	6	7	4	17	4

Charts 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 below provide details of the Air Corps' support to the HSE's Emergency Aeromedical Support (EAS) service which operates on a daily basis out of Custume Barracks, Athlone. This service provides rapid patient transport to an appropriate facility where the land transit time, given the patient's condition and its severity, would not be clinically acceptable. A decision to deploy the EAS service is guided by EAS clinical tasking criteria, as determined by the National Ambulance Service Medical Director.



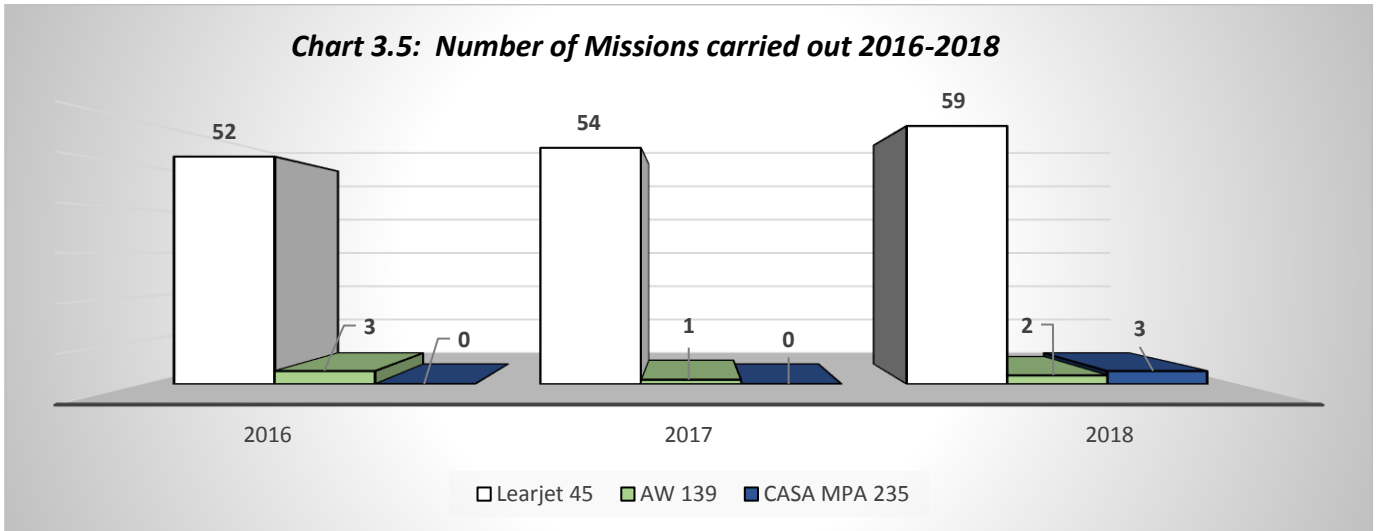
* Includes missions where the AW139 was stood down



MINISTERIAL AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE

The Ministerial Air Transport Service is provided by the Air Corps to assist the President and members of the Government in fulfilling their official engagements at home and abroad. Updated statistical information relating to the use of the Service is published on the Department of Defence website on a monthly basis. Chart 3.5 below contains summary details in respect of 2018 with similar details for 2016 and 2017 also provided for comparison purposes.

Chart 3.5: Number of Missions carried out 2016-2018



ARMY EQUITATION SCHOOL

During 2018, the School completed 115 competition days and achieved eight victories internationally. The school currently has a staff of 33 personnel including four riding officers and a total stock of 38 horses made up of show jumpers and eventers. Four new horses were acquired in 2018. Throughout the year, staff completed 464 days of training and 22 courses.

CEREMONIAL SERVICES

The Defence Organisation plays a highly significant and noteworthy role in many State commemoration ceremonies. Chart 3.6 provides summary details of engagements by the Defence Forces School of Music Military Bands during 2018 while Table 3.6 provides details of the Defence Forces contribution to both State and Military ceremonial events during 2018.

Chart 3.6: School of Music Engagements 2018

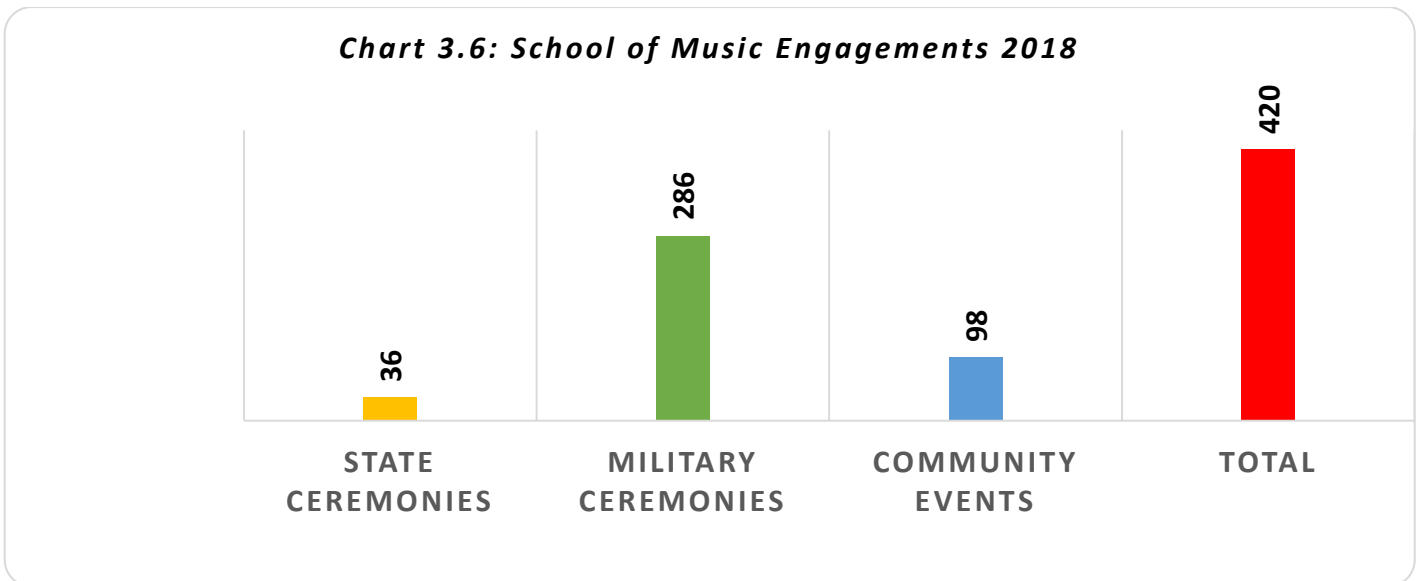


Table 3.6: Details of the Defence Forces contribution to State and Military ceremonial events during 2018

Date	Event	Total no. of DF personnel
18 Jan	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
08 Feb	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
12 Feb	Medical Officer Commissioning Ceremony, McKee Barracks.	14
14-15 Feb	State visit to Ireland by the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Mr. Sergio Mattarella, Áras an Uachtaráin and the Garden of Remembrance.	321
21 Feb	State Visit by President Higgins to Greece, departure ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin and Casement Aerodrome.	172
13 March	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
17 March	Presidential Escort of Honour to attend the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade.	29
23 March	Ministerial Review, 57 Inf Gp UNDOF, Kilkenny.	163
01 April	Easter Sunday wreath laying, Glasnevin Cemetery.	12
01 April	1916 Commemoration Ceremony at the GPO.	290
19 April	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
02 May	Ministerial Review, 112 Inf Bn UNIFIL, Dundalk.	354
09 May	Commemoration of the Leaders of the 1916 Rising, Arbour Hill, Dublin.	224
12 May	National Famine Commemoration, University College Cork.	188
13 May	Defence Forces Veterans Day, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin.	156
17 May	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
21 May	Citizenship Ceremony, Killarney.	34
05 June	Visit of the Austrian Chief of Defence, McKee Barracks and the Garden of Remembrance.	119
17 June	State Visit by President Higgins to Latvia & Lithuania, departure ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin and Casement Aerodrome.	172
21 June	Medical Officer Commissioning Ceremony.	14
21 June	State Dinner in honour of the President of the European Commission, Dublin Castle.	16
24 June	Commemoration of the 60 th anniversary of Ireland's first involvement in United Nations Peacekeeping, Dublin Castle.	251
02 July	Commemoration of the 60 th anniversary of Ireland's first involvement in United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations Headquarters, New York.	11
03 July	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
08 July	National Day of Commemoration, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin.	336
08 July	State Dinner in honour of the Chancellor of Austria, Dublin Castle.	16
13 July	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
14 July	Military Guard Ceremony, National Monument, Merrion Square.	38
21 July	Military Guard Ceremony, National Monument, Merrion Square.	38
27 July	Unveiling of Victoria Cross Commemorative Stone, Glasnevin Cemetery.	59
28 July	Military Guard Ceremony, National Monument, Merrion Square.	38
28 July	All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final, Croke Park.	86
04 Aug	Military Guard Ceremony, National Monument, Merrion Square.	38
11 Aug	Military Guard Ceremony, National Monument, Merrion Square.	38
18 Aug	Military Guard Ceremony, National Monument, Merrion Square.	38
19 Aug	All-Ireland Hurling Final, Croke Park.	10
25 Aug	Visit to Ireland by His Holiness Pope Francis, Áras an Uachtaráin.	156
28 Aug	Visit of the Polish Chief of Defence, McKee Barracks and the Garden of Remembrance.	121
02 Sept	All-Ireland Football Final, Croke Park.	16
04 Sept	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
04 Sept	Presentation of the DSM to Major General Michael Beary, Cathal Brugha Barracks.	117
10 Sept	Citizenship Ceremony, Dublin.	3
19 Sept	Ministerial Review, 58 Inf Gp UNDOF, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin.	160
20 Sept	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
10 Oct	Commemoration of the centenary of the sinking of the RMS Leinster, Dun Laoghaire.	46
16 Oct	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
26 Oct	Ministerial Review, 113 Inf Bn UNIFIL, Galway.	436
02 Nov	Defence Forces Deceased Members Commemoration, McKee Barracks.	105
11 Nov	Commemoration of the World War 1 Armistice, Glasnevin Cemetery.	188
11 Nov	Presidential Inauguration ceremony, Dublin Castle.	269
26 Nov	Citizenship Ceremony, Killarney.	34
28 Nov	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
06 Dec	Credentials Ceremony, Áras an Uachtaráin.	118
12 Dec	DF Carol Service, Arbour Hill, Dublin.	51
17 Dec	Visit of the NATO SACEUR, Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel.	113

Section 4: Corporate Information and Data

4.1 DETAILS OF DEFENCE VOTE EXPENDITURE FOR 2016, 2017 AND 2018 BY CATEGORY*

Expenditure Category	2016		2017		2018*	
	€m	%	€m	%	€m	%
PDF Pay and Allowances	414	61.7	430	63.2	432	61.7
Pay and Allowances of Civilian Employees, RDF and Chaplains	23	3.4	22	3.2	22	3.1
Defensive Equipment	31	4.6	73	10.7	77	11.0
Air Corps: Equipment, fuel, maintenance, etc.	19	2.8	16	2.4	18	2.6
Naval Service: Equipment, fuel, maintenance, etc.	64	9.6	14	2.1	17	2.4
Barracks expenses, repairs and maintenance of lands	22	3.3	21	3.1	23	3.3
Buildings – Capital (incl. c/o)	7	1.0	13	1.9	10	1.4
Military Transport: New vehicles, fuel, repairs and maintenance	12	1.8	12	1.8	15	2.1
Compensation	4	0.6	4	0.6	7	1.0
Other non-pay military expenditure	47	7.0	46	6.8	52	7.4
Administrative Budget	22	3.3	22	3.2	23	3.4
Civil Defence	5.1	0.8	5	0.7	4.2	0.5
Irish Red Cross Society	0.9	0.1	1.6	0.3	1.1	0.1
Total (Gross)	671	100	680	100	701	100

* Provisional outturn figures for 2018 (Minor discrepancies may arise due to rounding)

4.2 DETAILS OF ARMY PENSIONS VOTE EXPENDITURE FOR 2016, 2017 AND 2018 BY CATEGORY*

Expenditure Category	2016		2017		2018	
	€m	%	€m	%	€m	%
Defence Forces (Pensions) Scheme & Payments in respect of Transferred Service	225	95.9	230.6	96.1	233.5	96.4
Wound & Disability Pensions, allowances and gratuities, to or in respect of former members of the Defence Forces	9	3.8	8.9	3.7	8.3	3.4
Payments in respect of dependants of Veterans of the War of Independence & other miscellaneous expenditure	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.2
Total (Gross)	234.7	100	240	100	242.3	100

* Provisional outturn figures for 2018 (Minor discrepancies may arise due to rounding)

4.3 DETAILS OF THE VOLUME OF TRANSACTIONS PROCESSED DURING 2016, 2017 AND 2018

Metrics	2016	2017	2018
No. of non-payroll payments made (invoices, etc.)	36,981	34,031	22,596 *
No. of new pensions approved (service, disability & dependants)	480	473	454
No. of cases processed on death of a pensioner	336	279	289
No. of payroll family law queries	31	25	20
No. of pay statements provided to employees	2,862	2,700	250 **
No. of pensions family law queries	887	858	810
No. of pensions benefit estimate statements provided and pension benefit queries answered	1,663	1,927	2,120
No. of Single Pension Scheme annual benefit statements issued ***	--	383	5,338

* The number of non-payroll payments in 2018 fell due to the migration of military Travel & Subsistence Expenses payments to the National Shared Services Office (NSSO) in late 2017.

** With the migration of officers and soldiers payrolls to the NSSO in 2017, the issuing of pay statements to employees fell to the NSSO. However, some pay statements were dealt with by the Department during 2018.

*** The Single Pension Scheme annual benefit statements relate to the years 2013 to 2017. These figures include statements for previous years and work in this regard commenced in 2017.

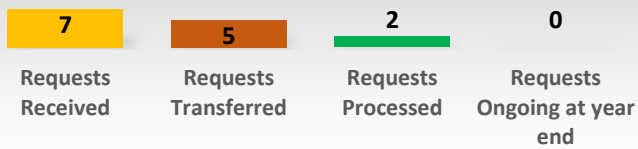
4.4 INTERNAL AUDIT

The Department's Internal Audit Section is an independent unit which provides the internal audit service in respect of the Defence Organisation and reports directly to the Secretary General. As a service provider, the section follows the audit standards published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. During 2018, the section worked to its annual audit plan, which was approved by the Secretary General, and which covered a range of systems and stores audits. The section's work was reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Department's Audit Committee which comprises two external members (one of whom is the Chair) and one representative from each of the civil and military branches of the Department. During 2018, the section carried out some 80 audits.

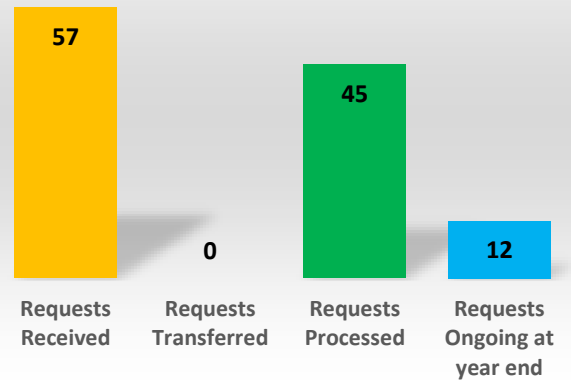
4.5 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The General Data Protection Regulation, which emphasises transparency, security and accountability obligations for data controllers and strengthens the privacy rights of data subjects, came into force in May 2018. The Department of Defence and the Defence Forces, as separate data controllers for the Defence Organisation, continued to work to ensure compliance with the Regulation. Both organisations have engaged with external subject matter experts to ensure best practice is in place and compliance is achieved. The Data Protection Commission visited the Defence Forces in August 2018 to review completed and planned activities and the outcome of this was positive. Charts 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 below provides details of the number of Subject Access Requests processed by the Data Protection Offices of both data controllers during 2018.

**Chart 4.1.1: GDPR Subject Access Requests 2018
Department of Defence**



**Chart 4.1.2: GDPR Subject Access Requests 2018
Defence Forces**



4.6 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Department of Defence and the Defence Forces are treated as separate bodies for the purposes of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. Charts 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 below provide details of the number of FOI requests processed by both bodies during 2018 with details for 2016 and 2017 also provided for comparison purposes.

Chart 4.2.1: Details of FOI Requests processed by the Department of Defence

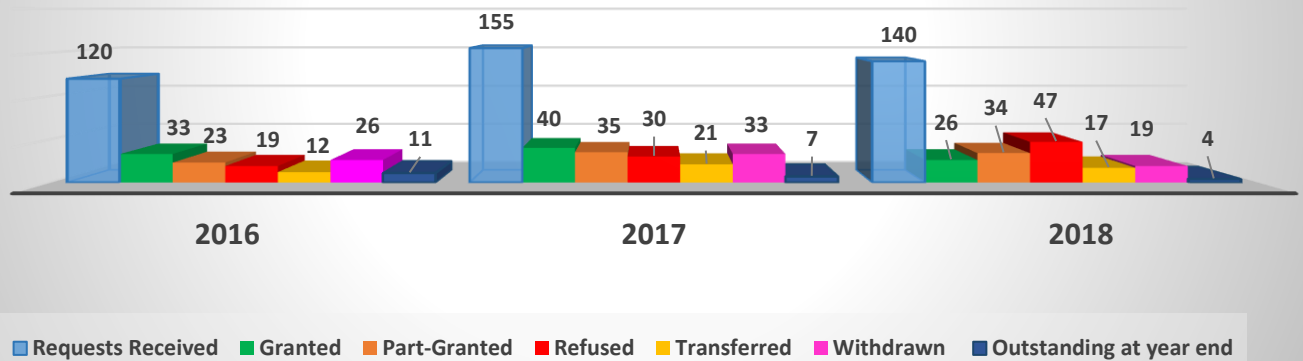
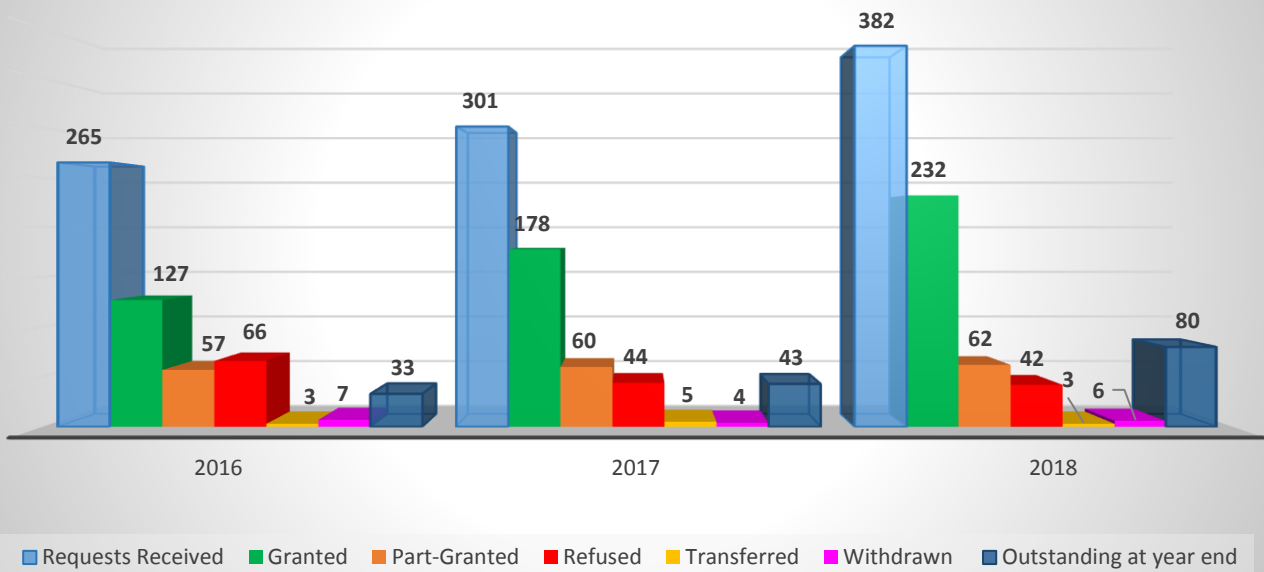


Chart 4.2.2: Details of FOI Requests processed by the Defence Forces

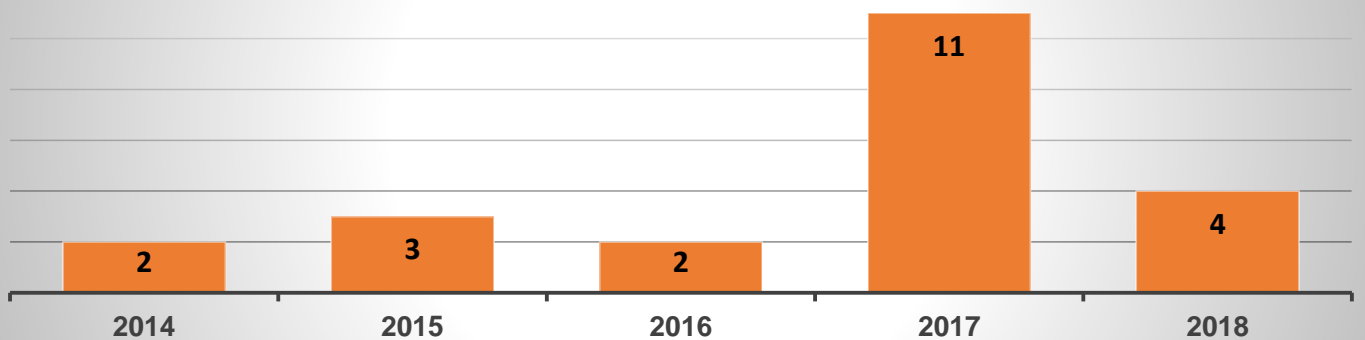


4.7 PROTECTED DISCLOSURES

A single civil-military Protected Disclosures Office in the Department carries out an initial assessment of all protected disclosures received and issues guidance to all civil and military staff. Together, the single Office and provision of updated guidance ensures a uniform approach to protected disclosures across the Defence Organisation.

In accordance with the terms of section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, an annual report in relation to the total number of protected disclosures made in the preceding year is prepared and published on the Department of Defence website <https://www.defence.ie/what-we-do/protected-disclosures>. At the end of 2018, reports for 2014 to 2017 had been published. Chart 4.3 below provides details of the numbers of disclosures made to the Defence Organisation over the period to 2014 to 2018. These details are not broken down further in keeping with the confidentiality requirements specified in the 2014 Act.

Chart 4.3: Number of Protected Disclosures received in the years 2014 to 2018



4.8 ENERGY CONSUMPTION 2018

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

The Department of Defence continued to take a very proactive approach during 2018 throughout its buildings in Newbridge, Renmore and Roscrea in progressing energy-efficient initiatives. Efforts towards improving energy efficiency have been achieved through proactive departmental energy teams who are, since 2007, implementing energy efficiency initiatives such as using only energy efficient lighting, more strict control of heating and ventilation systems, organising Energy Awareness Days to improve behaviour by staff at desk level, installing timers on high energy units, regular energy audits and monitoring and reporting etc.

The Department of Defence was chosen for a pilot energy study in 2007 and, as such, uses 2007 as its base year. The total usage of energy in Renmore during 2018 was 620,998 kWh which represents a reduction in energy consumption of 27% compared to the base year of 2007. Total energy usage for the Roscrea building in 2018 was 290,838 kWh which represents a reduction of 42% when compared to 2007 figures. The total energy consumed in the Newbridge building in 2018 was 1,448,318 kWh which represents an increase of some 12% when compared with 2011, the first full year of occupation. Much of the increase can be attributed to the hosting of the NSSO FMSS back-up server which was installed in the Department mid-year.

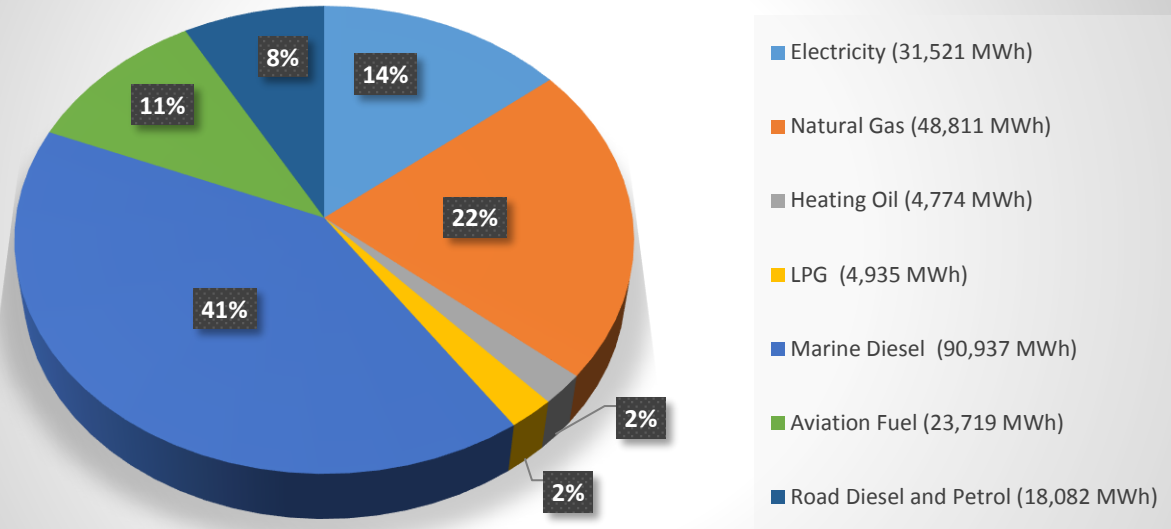
DEFENCE FORCES

In 2018, the Defence Forces consumed 222,779 MWh of energy which represented a small increase in absolute Energy Consumption compared to 2017. Overall, the Defence Forces has reduced absolute energy consumption by 8.01% since 2009. The main sources of energy use within the Defence Forces during 2018 were utilities (including Electricity, Natural Gas, LPG and Heating Oil) and transport fuel (including Aviation Fuel, Marine Fuel and Road Diesel and Petrol) – see Chart 4.4 overleaf.

Energy use remains high due to a number of operational and environmental factors, The Naval Service operations in the Mediterranean since 2016 have led to a large increase in Marine Gas Oil (MGO) use. 2018 was also a significantly colder year than 2017 in terms of Heating Degree Days and this led to an increase in energy use in heating systems. There was also an increase in training activities, which has led to an increased use of all utilities. The increased use of the more efficient transport admin fleet is reflected in the reduction in overall road transport fuel consumption. Aviation fuel consumption increased from 2017 but still remains 8.68% below the 2009 figure.

The Defence Forces continues to maintain certification to the international energy management standard ISO 50001 and as part of the certification process three locations were audited in 2018.

Chart 4.4: Defence Forces Energy Consumption by Category 2018



EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY (EDA) COLLABORATION - ENERGY

The Defence Forces continue to engage with the European Defence Agency on a number of energy initiatives. Since 2014, the Defence Forces have participated in the EDA's Energy and Environment Working Group. This Working Group examines opportunities to improve energy performance across the Defence Sector.

In 2018, Ireland participated in the European Commission's 'Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence & Security Sectors', Phase II (CFSEDSS II) which is coordinated by the EDA. This consists of a series of conferences which examine the applicability of EU energy legislation and how it can be implemented by European militaries. The forum comprises four working groups (Energy Management 1 & 2, RES and Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure), each of which are attended by Defence Forces personnel. In 2018, the Defence Forces continued to provide a Moderator to the RES working group and Defence Forces personnel have been significant contributors to the work of the other groups, briefing on its Energy Management System and project proposals.

In 2018, two officers commenced the EDA Defence Energy Managers Course (DEMC), which runs over the course of one year with three 3-5 day sessions in Brussels. The aim of the course is to introduce and convert to ISO50001:2018.

Ireland continued its participation in the EDA 'Smart Blue Camps' Water Management initiative with Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Cyprus. This project attempts to address energy and environmental concerns with regard to water usage and management in military installations. The project is being conducted over approximately three years and is broken down into two phases. Phase 1 consists of an onsite assessment, identifying problems, and prioritising solutions and phase 2 will select and evaluate solutions, monitor performance, and share knowledge with proposals likely to involve recycling water and rainwater harvesting.

4.9 CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUPS WITH INPUT FROM DEFENCE

- Brexit Coordination Meeting Group
- CISM Network (Critical Incidence Stress Management Network)
- Civil Service Employee Assistant Service Advisory Committee
- Civil Service ICT Managers' Group
- Civil Service Project Managers' Network
- Civil Service Renewal Working Group on cross-cutting issues
- Court Martial Rules Committee
- Department of the Taoiseach National Risk Assessment Steering Group
- Disability Liaison Officers Network
- Electronic Recording System (ERS) Implementation Group (Fisheries)
- European Social Fund (ESF) Programme Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Department of Education & Skills' ESF Managing Authority;
- Finance Officers Network
- Financial Management Shared Services – Process Design Advisory Group
- Financial Management Shared Services - Technology Advisory Group
- Financial Management Shared Services – Functional Working Groups
- Financial Management Shared Services – Security Working Group
- Garda Air Support Unit Steering Group
- Government Contracts Committee for Construction (GCCC)
- Government Task Force on Emergency Planning
- Government Task Force on Emergency Planning sub-group on Electricity Contingency Planning
- Government Task Force on Emergency Planning sub-group on Risk
- Government Task Force on Emergency Planning sub-group on Strategic Emergency Management – National Structures and Framework
- Health Threats Co-ordination Group
- High Level Steering Group on Cyber Security
- Implementation Group on Policing Reform
- Inter-departmental Committee on Conventional Weapons
- Inter-departmental Committee on Development
- Inter-departmental Committee on EU Engagement
- Inter-departmental Committee on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Inter-departmental Committee on Peacekeeping
- Inter-departmental Committee on Protected Disclosures
- Inter-departmental Committee on the Security of Government Buildings Complex
- Inter-departmental Committee to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-departmental Group on EU and Brexit
- Inter-departmental Group on Security of Electoral Process and Disinformation
- Inter-departmental Group on the Irish Abroad
- Inter-departmental Meeting on the Council of Europe
- Inter-departmental meetings on Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals
- Inter-departmental National Security Authority Group.
- Inter-departmental Planning Group for 1916 Easter Sunday Commemoration
- Inter-departmental Planning Group for the National Day of Commemoration
- Inter-departmental Steering Group on the Military Service Pensions Collection project
- Inter-hospital Air Ambulance Steering Group
- Irish Aeronautical Maritime Emergency Advisory Group
- Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES) Management Board
- Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee
- Irish Prison Service Interagency Contingency Planning Group
- Malaria Chemoprophylaxis Working Group
- Management Board of the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management
- Marine Co-ordination Group
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive Implementation Group
- Maritime Surveillance (MARSUR) Committee and Working Group
- National Aeromedical Group

- National Airspace Policy Body (Flexible Use of Airspace)
- National Civil Aviation Security Committee
- National Committee on International Humanitarian Law
- National Co-ordination Group on Severe Weather Events
- National Data Infrastructure (NDI) Champions Group
- National Emergency Planning Group on Nuclear Accidents (NEPNA)
- National Famine Commemoration Committee
- National Implementation Committee for Disused Radioactive Source Management
- National Office of Suicide Preventions "Connecting for Life Cross Sectoral Steering Group" progressing the implementation of the National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2020.
- National Security Committee
- National Steering Group on Major Emergency Management
- OFGUG (Oracle Financials Government User Group)
- OGCIO (Office of the Government Chief Information Officer) ICT Advisory Board
- OGP (Office of Government Procurement) Category Councils
- OPW Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Steering Group
- OPW Interdepartmental Flood Policy Co-ordination Group
- Our Public Service 2020 Action Team 10 "Embed Programme and Project Management" (DOD Leads)
- Our Public Service 2020 Action Team 1 "Accelerate Digital Delivery"
- Our Public Service 2020 Action Team 4 "Significantly Improve Communications and Engagement"
- Our Public Service 2020 Action Team 6 "Promote a Culture of Innovation"
- Our Public Service 2020 Action Team 13 "Mainstream Continuous Work Force Planning"
- Our Public Service 2020 Action Team 14 "Continuous and Responsive Professional Development"
- Our Public Service 2020 Indicators Working Group
- Our Public Service 2020 Public Service Leadership Board (PSLB)
- Our Public Service 2020 Public Service Management Group (PSMG)
- Oversight Group of Ireland's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015 – 2018)
- Personnel Officers Executive Committee
- Personnel Officers Network
- Public Service Management Group
- Quality Customer Service Officers Network
- Risk Management Liaison Group
- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority Consultative Committee
- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority SLA Management Groups Levels 1 and 2
- Sectoral Workforce Planning Forum
- Senior Officials Group on EU Affairs
- Single Pension Scheme Programme Board
- Training Officers Network
- Various Working Groups related to the Financial Management Shared Services project
- Working Group on Corporate Manslaughter

4.10 MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUs) AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS (SLAs)

The Department of Defence has completed MOUs with:

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
- Department of Health
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Office of the Revenue Commissioners
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- State Claims Agency
- United Nations
- Ministry of Defence, Finland
- Ministry of Defence, UK
- Ministry For Home Affairs and National Security of the Republic of Malta
- Irish Red Cross Society
- Permanent Defence Force Other Ranks Representative Association (PDFORRA)
- Representative Association of Commissioned Officers (RACO)

SLAs have been agreed with:

- Department of Education and Skills – regarding ESF funding relating to the Defence Forces Employment Support Scheme.
- Marine Institute (MI) – regarding surveys, information sharing and training between the MI and the Naval Service.
- Medico – in relation to training assistance provided by the Naval Service to Medico.
- Air Accident Investigation Unit (AAIU) – in relation to services provided by the Defence Forces to the AAIU in the event of an air accident.
- Irish Coast Guard – regarding Search and Rescue (SAR) support and other services provided by the Defence Forces to the Irish Coast Guard (IRCG).
- Met Éireann – regarding the exchange of meteorological data between the Naval Service and Met Éireann.
- Department of Health/Health Service Executive (HSE) – regarding an Air Ambulance Service provided by the Air Corps.
- Health Service Executive (HSE)/ National Ambulance Service – regarding the pilot scheme for the availability of a Defence Forces ambulance and crew to the National Ambulance Service.
- Marine Survey Office (MSO) – assistance in routine or emergency situations.
- Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) – for the provision by the Air Corps of an air transport service to GSOC Investigators.
- Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) – regarding Air Navigation Services between the IAA and the Air Corps.
- Department of Justice and Equality – regarding the Garda Air Support Unit.
- Office of Public Works – in relation to services provided by the Air Corps to the OPW during extreme weather events.
- Irish Aid – in relation to a range of services provided by the Defence Forces regarding the Rapid Response Initiative.

- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) – in relation to services provided by the Naval Service and Air Corps to the SFPA in regard to fisheries protection.
- An Garda Síochána - terms of service between Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána in relation to emergency incidents.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government – regarding the provision of services by the Defence Forces and Civil Defence.
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (National Parks and Wildlife Service) – regarding the provision of services by the Defence Forces.
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport – regarding the provision of services by the Defence Forces to the Dublin Airport Authority.
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to Mass Fatality Planning.
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) with the overall aim of improving the cyber-security of the State.
- Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta (ONE) and Irish United Veterans Association (IUNVA) provision of service.
- Irish Coast Guard – provision of service between Civil Defence and Irish Coast Guard in relation to emergency incidents on the waters of Ireland

