

# The Irish State Administration Database

## Codebook and Data description

June 2014

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## Introduction

The *Irish State Administration Database* records information about the formal development and composition of Irish government and public administration organisational structures at the national level since 1922. It consists of two interlinked datasets – the first recording all national-level public organisations (or *units*) that have existed over this period, the second recording changes (or *events*) to these organisations, including their creation and any subsequent alteration in form, role and function. The database thus seeks to capture the evolution of the Irish administrative state across all policy fields and functional areas. The development of the database is ongoing and users are encouraged to contribute comments and/or corrections at all times in order to enhance the quality of information provided herein.

This handbook will consider only the information as it appears on the website. Any changes to the user interface will be incorporated into future editions of this handbook.

## Citing/referencing the database

The development of this resource was funded by a Thematic Research Grant from the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS). Those scholars and researchers who wish to use the *Irish State Administration Database* are kindly asked to use the following citation:

**Hardiman, Niamh; MacCarthaigh, Muiris & Scott, Colin. *Year*. The Irish State Administration Database. <http://www.isad.ie>. *Date of access*.**

Any queries concerning citations or use of the data for publication purposes can be addressed to [m.maccarthaigh@qub.ac.uk](mailto:m.maccarthaigh@qub.ac.uk)

## **Contents of this handbook**

This handbook will provide users with the necessary information to maximise their use of the database. The following sections identify and explain the content of the data entries and the range of options used in their construction. The data entries can be categorised according to *unit* data and *event* data.

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### What is a unit?

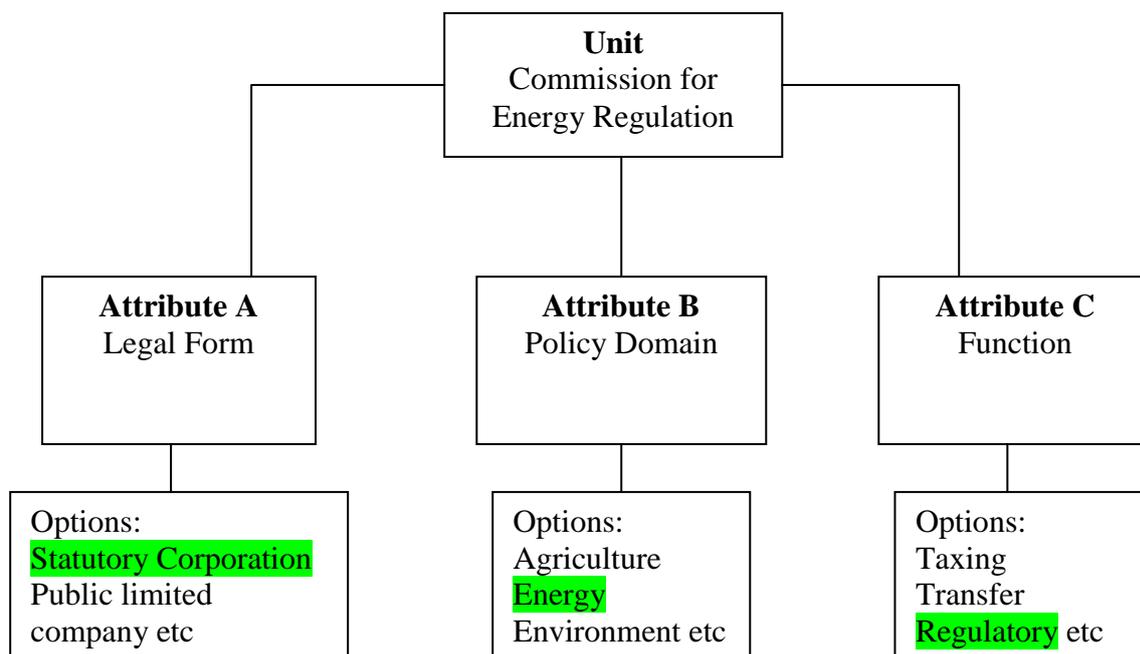
For the purposes of this database, a *unit* normally consists of a national-level organisation that performs a public function under public authority. Units therefore include central government/ministerial departments, commercial state-owned enterprises and non-commercial state agencies, as well as other relevant public bodies and institutions in Ireland. The database does not contain a comprehensive listing of divisions within government departments, and it does not include bodies with a purely local or regional remit.

Each unit has a discrete entry which identifies its name, the date at which it began its work and, where applicable, ceased to function, the principal source(s) of information for the entry and a short textual description of the unit. An estimation of confidence is also provided which refers to the level of certainty for the information entered for this attribute, where 1 = low confidence and 5 = high confidence. Legislation, for instance, is a strong source, so it would get a rating of 5. A newspaper article, on the other hand, would score lower. A lower number might also indicate that having exhausted all sources, the dates of existence for this unit have not been established with complete certainty.

The unit page also offers information concerning ‘other names’ used for the unit (usually names in the Irish language or common acronyms) and some information on the background to the unit creation. This background information is referred to as ‘event lineage’. It is also possible to see all of the events associated with a unit, and from these events to look at other related units. Thus the whole database can be navigated through inter-related events and units. For some units (mainly ministerial departments) there is also an option presented on its main page titled ‘show children’, which identifies the units under the parentage of this unit over the course of its existence.

For each unit, a number of its attributes (e.g. function, legal form) are also identified in a ‘summary page’. For each attribute there are a number of options presented, some of which are common to each and others which are specific to the attribute in question. Figure 1 below represents these attributes diagrammatically.

*Figure 1: Unit Attributes*



The common options for **all** attributes are:

**From date** – when this attribute began

**To date** – when this attribute ceased

**Description** – any information relevant to this attribute

**Source** - Source(s) of information for this data

In total, the database provides for up to **eleven** different attributes per unit (which appear on the summary page for each unit in the order below):

1. Name
2. Legal Form
3. Functions
4. Policy Domains
5. COFOG
6. FOI
7. Ombudsman
8. Comptroller
9. Minister
10. Parent unit
11. Counties
12. Info
13. Ranks

The options for each of these attributes are considered below.

## 1. Name

*Name* – Unit name

English language names have been entered as the primary names by default, except in cases where the Irish language name is the primary name given in legislation or the business name of an organisation. Where possible, organisations are searchable under both English and Irish names. Where two or more units have existed under the same name, they have each been given a roman numeral suffix for identification purposes, with the earliest body labelled as (I), the subsequent body (II) and so on.

## 2. Legal Form

Legal form includes a spectrum of possibilities. At one end of a continuum of ‘publicness’ in public organisations are ministries, established and governed by legislation, whilst at the other are a variety of non-governmental organizations. Although ‘private’ in ownership, they may nevertheless be public bodies because they are substantially funded from the public purse, or exercise statutory powers, or are subject to public accountability mechanisms. The legal status of a public body is derived from the type of ownership, authority, origins of creation and source of legitimacy it enjoys. A more detailed account of the concept of ‘legal form’, its explanations and applications can be found at

<http://geary.ucd.ie/images/Publications/WorkingPapers/gearywp200804.pdf>

Advisory bodies have been established from time to time by Irish governments since 1922, many of which have been non-permanent, without specific legal status and of short duration: these have been excluded from the database. Those which have been included are bodies that have remained in existence for longer than five years, also bodies which although non-statutory have been the direct instigator of important policy changes. Sometimes informal bodies are subsequently established on a statutory basis; this change of status is recorded in the database.

The options for legal form are therefore:

### 1. Ministerial department

This option refers to departments established under the Ministers and Secretaries Act 1924 and successive amending primary and secondary legislation, (including the transfer orders provided for under section 6(1) of Minister and Secretaries Act 1939), e.g. the Department of Transport.

### 2. Executive agency (without independent legal personality)

This code is used for units *within* ministerial departments that are presented as being separate from the typical structures of the office. They are typically engaged in service delivery functions and have their own chief executive/director’s office, e.g. the Prisons Service. As noted above, some of these bodies have been of short duration but merit recognition within the database, e.g. Probation and After-Care Service (1962-9)

### **3. Statutory corporation**

These are organisations established by legislation which states that they have a corporate form, and which derive their authority from this founding (or amending) statutes, e.g. the Equality Authority and An Bord Bia.

### **4. Statutory non-departmental body**

These bodies are established by legislation but do not have a corporate form and do not belong in any of the other categories, e.g. the Irish Legal Terms Advisory Committee and the Residential Institutions Redress Board.

### **5. Non-statutory non-departmental body**

This is a residual category of organisation with neither corporate form nor a statutory basis, e.g. National Competitiveness Council. It includes a number of organisations that emerged in an ad-hoc and/or non-statutory manner, but existed for a sustained period of time, e.g. Butter Marketing Committee (1935-61). It also includes bodies that fulfil important public functions although private or voluntary in ownership status, e.g. the Law Society.

### **6. Statutory tribunal**

This is a code given to an adjudicatory body established by legislation, e.g. the Employment Appeals Tribunal and the Equality Tribunal.

### **7. Non-statutory tribunal**

This type of organisation code is given to an adjudicatory body established other than by legislation (such as by administrative circular), e.g. the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal and the Milk Quota Appeals Tribunal.

### **8. Constitutional and Government offices and statutory office holders**

This is a residual category which combines constitutional offices (e.g. Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Office of the Attorney-General), central government offices that are established in a manner similar to government departments but without their own Cabinet minister (e.g. Office of Public Works and Revenue Commissioners), and those organisations with statutorily independent office holders (e.g. the various Ombudsmans offices).

### **9. Chartered corporation**

These organisations pre-date 1922 and are usually established by private legislation and/or charters. 'Royal' bodies are key examples here, e.g. the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

### **10. Public limited company (plc)**

These are companies with shares listed on stock exchange. This option is also given to public companies (listed) with majority government shareholding and/or 'golden' share, e.g. Bord na Móna and the Housing Finance Agency.

### **11. Private limited company (ltd)**

These are companies with shares not listed on the stock exchange but which are either publicly owned or which exercise monopoly control under licence or whose boards are subject to public appointment, e.g. An Post and Coillte Teoranta.

## 12. Company limited by guarantee

These are companies with no shares, but created by subscription of guarantors, which often have a statutory basis for their actions, e.g. the National Concert Hall Limited and Pobal.

## 3. Functions

The database records data on the functions fulfilled by units. Function is defined as a type of activity in which an organisation is involved. Public organisations engage in and carry out a range of activities, some of which are derived from statutory powers, some not. That is why it is useful to use the 'function' criteria in conjunction with others in classifying public organisations.

Our list of functions was adapted from a list of generic functions elaborated by Dunleavy<sup>1</sup>. A number of functions from the Dunleavy list have been removed; some new functions have been also added (see also Hardiman & Scott. 'Ordering Things' <http://ideas.repec.org/p/ucd/wpaper/200907.html>).

In some cases we have found it necessary to identify two or three functions exercised by a public body: for such cases we identify primary, secondary and subsequent functions.

Within the database, ministerial departments are classed as state organisations. However, rather than being uni-functional organisations, ministerial departments normally have both policy formation *and* policy execution as core functions.

We identify **10** options for the function attribute, at least one of which will be the unit's primary function. In alphabetical order, they are:

### 1. Adjudication/Grievance Handling

This categorisation most commonly applies to organisations created as alternative to judicial proceedings. Examples of such organisations are Redress Boards, Office of the Ombudsman, Eg. Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal (1974) and the Labour Court (1946).

### 2. Advisory/Consultative/Representation/Advocacy

This function is broad in scope and includes provision of expert advice, representing interests of specific social groups, and making recommendations to the government. The advice provided to ministers may be technical in nature and may concern matters on which the relevant minister does not have internal departmental expertise. Although they may achieve status equivalent to statutory agencies/bodies in the public eye, some such agencies are not set up through legislation but by administrative action or circular, that is, on a non-statutory basis, e.g. the Law Reform Commission (1975) and the Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (2005).

### 3. Contracting

Contracting agencies are concerned with developing service specifications or capital projects for tendering, and for setting the terms of contracts with private firms or commercially run public sector agencies such as public corporations. They normally

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<sup>1</sup> Dunleavy, Patrick. 1989. The Architecture of the British Central State, Part 1: Framework for Analysis. *Public Administration* 67 (3): 249-75.

retain considerable autonomy in the allocation of public funds under their control. Contract agency staff are primarily employed in research and development of projects, drawing up equipment or service specifications, liaising with companies, contract management and compliance, etc. The implementation of the projects and/or services is not carried out by the contractors themselves. Examples include the National Roads Authority (1994) and the National Treatment Purchase Fund (2002).

#### **4. Delivery**

Organisations performing this function deliver services directly to citizens or enterprises, or carry out policy implementation using their own staff. Their activities are usually labour intensive and they typically have large core budgets which absorb a high proportion of their bureau and programme budget. Examples include the National Gallery of Ireland (1854) and An Post (Irish postal service, 1984).

#### **5. Information-providing**

Information-providing public organisations are responsible for collecting data and other information and providing it to government and/or society in general. One of the main tasks of such agencies is to compile new facts and information that was not previously known, for example the Referendum Commission (1998) and the Environmental Information Service (1990).

#### **6. Policy Formation and Execution**

These organisations are involved in a two-part policy making process wherein they define and formulate policy in various areas and sectors and are then involved in the implementation of these policies, which occurs through direct service delivery and through transfer of funds. As noted above, the primary organisations here are government ministries perform this function. Examples include the Department of Finance (1924) and the Department of Health (1947).

#### **7. Regulatory**

Organisations that have the authority, statutory or otherwise, to impose rules and sanctions on other public or private organisations are categorised as regulatory. Agencies performing regulatory functions are often funded by levying charges on the bodies being regulated, though not in all cases. Examples include the Irish Aviation Authority (1994) and the Road Safety Authority (2006).

#### **8. Taxing**

Administration of tax gathering and overseeing tax expenditures means that taxation agencies are now larger organizations than previously, whose running costs are normally higher than those of regulatory agencies (Dunleavy 1989, p.254). The principal such organisation in the database charged with taxing is the Office of the Revenue Commissioners (1923).

#### **9. Trading**

Trading agencies are full governmental organizations directly controlled by political appointees. They either operate directly in economic markets in a fully or quasi-commercial mode, or they deliver services to other organizations in the public sector but fully charge them for the costs involved. Examples include the Electricity Supply Board/ESB (1927) and Córas Iompair Éireann (1944).

## 10. Transfer

Transfer agencies handle payments of some form of subsidy or entitlement by government to private individuals or firms. They are above all money-moving organisations. Examples include the Arts Council (1951) and the Higher Education Authority (1968).

*Type* - Most organisations are multi-functional and ‘type’ is used to distinguish between the organisation’s primary, secondary or other functions.

## 4. Policy Domain

This attribute identifies the principal policy field in which the unit is active. It is useful here to distinguish it from function (above). The classification by function deals with the question of *how* an organization performs its task. Classification by policy domain deals with *what area of government* is it involved in. For many units, this will be similar to their COFOG classification. The main rationale for including both the COFOG and ‘policy domain’ criteria is to provide an exhaustive list of policy domains from which potential users of the database can draw information in order to refine their research. Our list of policy domain codes is based on two classifications:

1. The UN Classification of Functions of Government (COFOG) (above);
2. The British HM Treasury functional analysis (for more details see [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/6/pesa2007\\_cofogsupplementarynote.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/6/pesa2007_cofogsupplementarynote.pdf) )

There are 10 COFOG functions, and 18 HM Treasury functions. The *Irish State Administration Database* the State database identifies 16 policy domains.

### 1. Agriculture, fisheries and forestry

Agriculture, food, and fisheries policy; Forestry

### 2. Communications

Communication systems (postal, telephone, telegraph, wireless and satellite communication systems); communications systems operations (eg assignment of frequencies); communications systems support (eg grants to support construction of communications systems)

### 3. Defence

National defence; civil defence

### 4. Education and Training

Under fives; primary schools; secondary schools; further education; higher education; student support; training; other

### 5. Employment

Employment policies

### 6. Enterprise and Economic Development

Economic development and trade; support for business; regional policy

### 7. Environmental Protection

Environmental protection; environmental research

### 8. General Public Services

General public services

### 9. Health

Medical services; medical research; central and other health services

### 10. Housing and Community Amenities

Local authority housing; other social housing; other housing and community services

### 11. International Services

Other international services; international development aid

## **12. Public Order and Safety**

Police, fire, administration of justice; prisons and offender programmes; immigration and citizenship; other

## **13. Recreation, Culture and Religion**

Heritage, arts, libraries, and films; sport and recreation; broadcasting; lottery; other

## **14. Social Protection**

Incapacity, disability and injury benefits; state pensions; public sector occupational pensions; widows' benefits; family benefits, income support and tax credits; unemployment benefits; housing benefits; personal social services; administration and miscellaneous services

## **15. Transport**

National roads; local roads; local public transport; railways; other transport

## **16. Science and Technology**

Science and technology

## **5. COFOG**

For the purposes of international comparison, the United Nations 'Classification of the Functions of Government' or 'COFOG' is also provided, with data for both Levels 1 and 2 of this classification. COFOG is widely adopted as the international standard classification of areas of government activity (for more information see

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regcst.asp?Cl=4&Lg=1>).

The options are as follows:

### **01 General public services**

01.1 Executive and legislative organs, financial and fiscal affairs, external affairs

01.2 foreign economic aid

01.3 general services

01.4 basic research

01.5 r&d General Public Services

01.6 general public services n.e.c.

01.7 public debt transactions

01.8 transfers of a general character between different levels of government

### **02 Defence**

02.1 military defence

02.2 civil defence

02.3 foreign military aid

02.4 r&d defence

02.5 defence n.e.c.

### **03 Public order and safety**

03.1 police services

03.2 fire-protection services

03.3 law courts

03.4 prisons

03.5 r&d public order and safety

03.6 public order and safety n.e.c.

### **04 Economic affairs**

04.1 general economic, commercial and labour affairs

- 04.2 agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting
- 04.3 fuel and energy
- 04.4 mining, manufacturing and construction
- 04.5 transport
- 04.6 communication
- 04.7 other industries
- 04.8 r&d economic affairs
- 04.9 economic affairs n.e.c.

## **05 Environmental protection**

- 05.1 waste management
- 05.2 waste water management
- 05.3 pollution abatement
- 05.4 protection of biodiversity and landscape
- 05.5 r&d environmental protection
- 05.6 environmental protection n.e.c.

## **06 Housing and community amenities**

- 06.1 housing development
- 06.2 community development
- 06.3 water supply
- 06.4 street lighting
- 06.5 r&d housing and community amenities
- 06.6 housing and community amenities n.e.c.

## **07 Health**

- 07.1 medical products, appliances and equipment
- 07.2 outpatient services
- 07.3 hospital services
- 07.4 public health services
- 07.5 r&d health
- 07.6 health n.e.c.

## **08 Recreation, culture and religion**

- 08.1 recreational and sporting services
- 08.2 cultural services
- 08.3 broadcasting and publishing services
- 08.4 religious and other community services
- 08.5 r&d recreation, culture and religion
- 08.6 recreation, culture and religion n.e.c.

## **09 Education**

- 09.1 pre-primary and primary education
- 09.2 secondary education
- 09.3 post-secondary non-tertiary education
- 09.4 tertiary education
- 09.5 education not definable by level
- 09.6 subsidiary services to education
- 09.7 r&d education
- 09.8 education n.e.c.

## **10 Social protection**

- 10.1 sickness and disability

- 10.2 old age
- 10.3 survivors
- 10.4 family and children
- 10.5 unemployment
- 10.6 housing
- 10.7 social exclusion n.e.c.
- 10.8 r&d social protection
- 10.9 social protection n.e.c.

## **Accountability**

Each unit may be subject to one or more forms of accountability outside of the courts and parliament. The bodies to which they may be accountable are the Office of the Information Commissioner, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General. For each unit which is subject to one or more of these, the date from which they became subject to the particular accountability mechanism will be identified. Units can be searched by whether they are subject to these accountability mechanisms.

## **6. Freedom of Information**

The database records whether or not organisations are subject to the stipulations of Freedom of Information legislation as per the original Act of 1997, the Amending Act of 2003 and related Regulations from these Acts prescribing public bodies.

## **7. Ombudsman**

While a number of other public Ombudsman offices exist (e.g. the Ombudsman for Children or the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces) the database is concerned principally with the remit of the original Office of the Ombudsman, as established under the founding 1980 Act. Similarly, while the Disability Act 2005 gave members of the public the right to refer certain matters relating to any public body to the Office of the Ombudsman, the main remit of the Ombudsman for administrative issues generally may not be as comprehensive and only extends as far as its governing legislation permits. Therefore the relevant legislation includes the Ombudsman Act 1980, the Ombudsman (Amendment) Act 1984, and the Ombudsman (Amendment) Act 2012.

## **8. Comptroller and Auditor-General**

The Comptroller and Attorney General's (C&AG) audit represents one of the oldest accountability regimes in Ireland: it was provided for under the Comptroller and Auditor-General Act 1923 and Article 33 of the 1937 Constitution, but continued the work of the old Exchequer and Audit Department which pre-dated the independence of the Irish state. The C&AG's primary function is to audit the accounts of State bodies and to report the results to Dáil Éireann. Since 1993, by virtue of the Comptroller and Auditor-General (Amendment) Act of that year, the scope of such audits has been extended beyond the traditional concern with checking that money is spent as authorised to the more modern value-for-money audit in respect of selected public functions.

## **9. Ministers**

**[Note: This category only applies to units that are Ministerial Departments]**

The options for this attribute are:

***First Name***

***Second Name***

***Type***

For the 1922 to 1937 period, the options for the ‘type’ entry are:

- President of the Executive Council (Prime Minister)
- Vice-President of the Executive Council (Deputy Prime Minister)
- Minister
- Parliamentary Secretary.

While the position of Parliamentary Secretary was renamed Minister of State in 1977 and thus appears as an option, since 1937 the options are:

- Taoiseach (Prime Minister)
- Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister)
- Minister
- Minister of State

***Reason End***

This indicates whether a minister left office following a change in government, an election reshuffle, a midterm reshuffle, promotion, dismissal, resignation, death, or other reason.

## **10. Parent Units**

Below the level of Ministerial Department, almost all public organizations in the database will have a parent unit with responsibility for its activities. This attribute will provide information on the parent unit (or units) for the organization in question over the period of its existence. In the majority of cases the parent unit will be a Ministerial Department.

## **11. Counties**

While most public organisations are based in and around Dublin, the decentralisation programme announced in 2003 as part of Budget 2004 has resulted in several agencies being relocated around the state.

***Name*** – County where the unit (or its headquarters) is currently located, and any previous locations are listed with dates. Choice is one of 32 counties.

- |            |               |              |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Antrim  | 2. Armagh     | 3. Carlow    |
| 4. Cavan   | 5. Clare      | 6. Cork      |
| 7. Derry   | 8. Donegal    | 9. Down      |
| 10. Dublin | 11. Fermanagh | 12. Galway   |
| 13. Kerry  | 14. Kildare   | 15. Kilkenny |
| 16. Laois  | 17. Leitrim   | 18. Limerick |

19. Longford	20. Louth	21. Mayo
22. Meath	23. Monaghan	24. Offaly
25. Roscommon	26. Sligo	27. Tipperary
28. Tyrone	29. Waterford	30. Westmeath
31. Wexford	32. Wicklow	

## 12. Information

This attribute provides space for data concerning budgets and staffing complements for the unit. The information presented here includes:

*Year*

*Budget*

*Currency*– In Punts or Euros

*Staff* – Aggregate number of staff (whole-time equivalents if available)

## 13. Ranks

This final attribute refers to the grade held by the most senior person in the unit. In the majority of cases, though the title may be different (eg Director, CEO, Commissioner) it will normally be equivalent to one of the middle to senior grades used by the civil service, which, in descending order are:

- Secretary-General
- Deputy Secretary
- Assistant-Secretary
- Principal Officer
- Assistant Principal

## Event data information

### What is an event?

For the purposes of this database, an *event* is any organizational change to a recognised unit. A number of pre-defined options are identified which capture the creation, evolution and (if appropriate) demise of the unit over its life.

Twelve event codes are used in the database. The first nine capture structural changes – the creation and termination of units. The last three capture transfers of functions which are not captured by the structural changes.

It is beyond the scope of this database to track the movements of all staff following the termination of a unit. Staff may be transferred to one or more other existing units following such a termination, but in this database, the terminated organisation will only be considered linked to the organisation which received the staff if there is continuity of the function performed.

It is also important to note that events relate only to units in the database. For example, a unit may be replacing an entity which does not meet the standards for inclusion in the database, as is the case with some advisory bodies which replace informal taskforces or bodies which are created to take on the functions of a number of local level organisations. Because such an organisation has no predecessor in the database, it will be categorised as a birth. The same is true of units replaced by such an organisation, which will be categorised as a death. In the case of units preceded by or followed by local level organisations, in addition to the birth or death event there will be a transfer of function to/from subnational event.

In several cases, multiple events relating to several units occur at the same time. In these cases, events are 'linked' by a common linkage name (below).

### Types of events

The following event type codes are used to describe the changes to units.

#### 1. Birth

This code is used when the unit is created without any connections to other units. Such a unit will have no predecessor as an organizational form in the database.

$$\rightarrow A$$

#### 2. Secession

This code is used when some of the functions and resources of an existing organisation are transferred to create one or more new organisations while the original unit continues to exist, retaining its name and fundamental structure.

$$A \rightarrow A+B (+C\dots)$$

#### 3. Absorption

This code is used when the functions and resources of one or more units are fully transferred into another existing one.

$$A+B (+C\dots) \rightarrow A$$

#### 4. Split

This code is used when a unit ceases to exist through its division into two or more new units and the transfer of all its functions into these new units.

$$A \rightarrow B+C (+D\dots)$$

#### 5. Merge

This code is used when two or more units are combined into one new unit which is given an independent standing/status. The combining units cease to exist.

$$A+B (+C\dots) \rightarrow D$$

#### 6. Death

This code is used when a unit is disbanded, no replacement organisation is created, and its functions are not transferred to another organisation in the database.

$$A \rightarrow$$

#### 7. Replacement

This code is used when one organisation is completely replaced by another. Normally, the new organisation will adopt at least one of the following: a new name, new legal status, new structure or new core function, and may also expand the scope of its policy domain.

$$A \rightarrow B$$

#### 8. Privatisation

This code is used when an organisation that is completely or majority owned by the state is sold or transferred to majority or complete private ownership.

$$A \rightarrow$$

#### 9. Nationalisation

This code is used when an organization that is not owned by the state, or in which the state has a minority ownership share, becomes completely or majority owned by the state.

$$\rightarrow A$$

#### 10. Transfer to Sub-national

This code is used when the functions and resources of one or more units are transferred into one or more sub-national bodies.

$$A \rightarrow$$

#### 11. Transfer of Function

This code is used when the core functions or a major section of one or more organisations are transferred to another unit in the database.

$$\text{Part of } (A (+ B; +C\dots)) \rightarrow D$$

#### 12. Transfer from Sub-national

This code is used when the functions and resources of one or more sub-national bodies are transferred into a unit.

$$\rightarrow A$$

### Searching Events

Events can be searched by the following means, all of which are available on the main 'Events' page:

#### Unit

Searching by a unit's name will display all events which occurred involving a particular unit

## **Name**

An event's name is a text identifier based either on legislation (primary or secondary) or a name closely describing the event itself. For example the event name 'Tea Importers (Eire) Ltd' represents the entry for the birth of Tea Importers Ltd, while 'S.I. No. 324/1987 (Health Education Bureau)' records the death of the Health Education Bureau. When the trigger for an event is non-statutory, the unit name or a name that closely describes the event is used e.g. 'Parole Board' is the name of the event entry for the replacement of the Sentence Review Group by the Parole Board in 2001.

## **Type**

Events can be searched by choosing one of the 12 event types (above).

## **Linkages**

Events can also be searched according to linkages. Linkages are a means of demonstrating relationships between groups of two or more events. The most common types of linkage are departmental reorganisations and occasions when several events occur arising from a single piece of legislation. Linkages are normally named according to the relevant legislation or the year of the departmental reorganisation. For example, the linkage 'Departmental Reorganisation 1983' links together the various transfers of policy responsibility between departments following the election of the new government that year. The linkage 'Health Act 2004' links the various events that led to the creation of the Health Services Executive in 2005.

## **Date**

Events can be searched by date or within a range of dates. As with units, when an exact date is known, it is entered in the format dd/mm/yyyy. For imprecise or unknown dates, 00/mm/yyyy or 00/00/yyyy can be used.

A combination of the above may also be used to filter the search e.g. the user may wish to search for births of new organisations during the period 01/01/1957 to 31/12/1978 and can do so using the 'Type' and 'Date' search options simultaneously.

## Reports

The database provides for the creation of reports to provide overviews of the data and to facilitate comparative analysis. An annual overview report can be displayed by inputting a year and selecting 'show all units'.

## Sources for Unit and Event data (including links to statutes)

The data presented in the database have mostly been collected from official and primary sources. Where this has not proved possible, secondary sources have been relied upon and the accuracy of the data has been verified.

Links to the Irish Statute Book website are provided where legislation is a significant source for a unit or event. Please note the disclaimer from the Irish Statute Book website, <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/>:

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information/material contained on the web site, the State and Attorney General, its servants or agents assume no responsibility for and give no guarantees, undertakings or warranties concerning the accuracy, completeness or up to date nature of the information provided on the web site and do not accept any liability whatsoever arising from any errors or omissions. Users are warned that the publication of legislation on this web site does not indicate that any particular provision in a statute or statutory instrument was, or is currently, in force. Primary legislation and secondary legislation are constantly added to this site and material in PDF format for is also available via links from the eISB website.

Other frequently cited sources in the database include Oireachtas debates, IPA Yearbooks, national newspapers, the Companies Registration Office ([www.cro.ie](http://www.cro.ie)), and individual agency and departmental websites. Books most commonly cited in unit entries include:

Coakley, J. and Gallagher, M. (2005) *Politics in the Republic of Ireland, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.* Routledge and PSAI Press.

FitzGerald, G. (1963) *State-sponsored Bodies.* Dublin, Institute of Public Administration.

MacCarthaigh, M. (2009) *The Corporate Governance of Commercial State-owned Enterprises in Ireland.* CPMR Research Report 9, Dublin, Institute of Public Administration.

McGauran, A., Verhoest, K. and Humphreys, P. (2005) *The Corporate Governance of Agencies in Ireland.* CPMR Research Report 6, Dublin, Institute of Public Administration.

For a full list and discussion of sources used in developing the database, please see the 'Background to the Database' document.

## **Contacts**

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