

Forthcoming Publi

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IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION

Strategic Development Plan

2018-2022

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Foreword



A t a time when the reach of Irish studies is worldwide and part of an even wider interest in the history and cultural heritage of Ireland and its peoples, the IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION (IMC) plays an indispensable role as the nationally and internationally recognised publisher of primary sources for Ireland. IMC's remit is founded on the principles of dissemination, preservation and promotion of original source material — in public and private ownership — for the history and cultural heritage of Ireland and its peoples.

Since its foundation in 1928 IMC has reported on manuscripts and papers of literary, historical and general interest relating to Ireland, and has advised on their preservation and publication. Its principal function is as publisher, in print and digitally, of editions of manuscripts and out-of-print works of historical and cultural significance.

IMC relies on its grant from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, together with earnings from its publications. It is important to stress that the membership of the Commission consists of practicing historians drawn from all the universities in the island of Ireland, as well as archivists, librarians and genealogists. The director of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland sits on the Commission, as do the directors of the National Library of Ireland and the National Archives of Ireland. The members receive no remuneration for their indispensable contribution to the management and peer-reviewing of publications; without this selfless involvement the Commission could not fulfil its remit. This tradition of service to both scholarship and the state has been maintained since the Commission's warrant of appointment was signed on 10 October 1928 by President W. T. Cosgrave.

Operating within the financial exigencies of the past decade, IMC still delivers on its remit in a cost-effective manner. The value and vital importance of studying history as well as the availability of sources for interpreting history was highlighted by President Michael D. Higgins in his address at the launch of the *Cambridge History* of *Ireland* on 30 April 2018 when he said "Our history is the inheritance of all our people, its interpretation a matter for all of us, and a republic worthy of the name would seek to organise the material of history to make it as accessible as possible to all the people."

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This strategic plan for 2018–2022 builds on the Commission's Strategic Development Plan 2012–2016 which provided a roadmap for IMC development over the past five years (see Outcomes 2012–2016) and is informed by an online survey of stakeholders carried out in April–May 2018.

Like its predecessor, Strategic Development Plan 2018–2022 emphasises IMC's principal function as publisher of primary sources, while underlining IMC's responsibility for promoting public and institutional awareness of the need to preserve, catalogue and make accessible primary sources wherever they are to be found.

I would like to thank all those who contributed in whatever way to the preparation of Strategic Development Plan 2018–2022. The Commission owes a particular debt to the members of its Strategic Review Committee: Dr Cathy Hayes, Dr Elva Johnston, Professor Marian Lyons, Mr John McDonough, Ms Nicola Morris, Professor Thomas O'Connor. Dr Attracta Halpin, Registrar of the National University of Ireland, who generously accepted an invitation to act as Chair of the Committee, made an invaluable contribution.

The Strategic Development Plan 2018–2022 was formally adopted by the Commission on 25 June 2018.

John McCafferty Chair Irish Manuscripts Commission



Looking forward

Vision

The vision of IMC is to promote public and institutional awareness of and access to primary source materials for the histories, cultures and heritage of Ireland and its peoples.

IMC serves in particular the cultural heritage and academic communities and is committed to supporting the Government's strategic objectives for national cultural heritage.

Strategic priorities 2018–2022

This plan builds specifically on the outcomes of the Strategic Development Plan 2012–2016 and more generally on the international reputation gained by the Irish Manuscripts Commission over almost 90 years of publishing primary sources for the histories and cultures of Ireland and its peoples.

The following strategic priorities have been identified for the next five years:

- IMC will further expand and develop its role as leading publisher of primary source materials for the histories of Ireland and its peoples, building on its reputation as publisher since 1928;
- IMC will further develop its role as collaborative partner in order to present the rich treasury of sources for the history of Ireland and its peoples to the widest possible audience;
- IMC will fulfil its remit as expert advisor on issues and policies relating to manuscripts, historical records and cultural objects. It will proactively and reactively provide advice, based on its collective institutional experience and the expertise of its individual members, to the Government, the national cultural institutions and other cultural bodies and institutions;



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- as **promoter of awareness of the need to preserve primary sources** IMC will further develop its awareness strategies. It will provide encouragement and advice to institutions (public or private), the business community, voluntary bodies and individuals on the preservation of records in their keeping, be they current or non-current;
- IMC is committed to producing digital resources. As both **advocate and practitioner of digitisation**, IMC will promote international best practice, pursue the digitisation of its publications, and promote content from Irish cultural institutions on cultural heritage portals and repositories such as Europeana and Digital Repository of Ireland.



As publisher

Leading publisher of primary source materials for the histories of Ireland and its peoples

The Commission is known internationally for the quality of its publications; each publication is peer-reviewed and produced to the highest scholarly standards, ensuring quality and reliability and the long-term preservation of the primary sources on which these editions are based: 'enlightened subvention, modest enough, has ensured that the Manuscripts Commission has shone like a beacon' ('Textual healing' – Times Literary Supplement, London, 8 May 2009).

In the period 2018–2022, IMC will further expand and develop its role as publisher of primary source materials for the histories of Ireland and its peoples, providing the research infrastructure for those engaged in historical research worldwide.

Objective

IMC will seek to achieve this priority by publishing in print an average of four volumes per year, as well as publishing electronic editions.

The following actions are required to achieve this strategic priority:

Publishing programme for 2018–2022

- 1. IMC is committed to a major publishing programme of five multi-volume editions and twenty single-volume editions of primary sources (see page 11);
- 2. IMC will seek to publish in digital format certain primary sources not hitherto published by IMC and which, in the view of the Commission, are best suited to electronic publication;
- 3. IMC will seek collaboration with National Archives of Ireland (NAI), National Library of Ireland (NLI) and Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) with a view to embarking on joint projects;

Decade of Commemorations

4. In continuing support of the Decade of Commemorations, IMC will prioritise the publication of new primary sources from the period 1918–1922, whether as shorter documents or stand-alone editions;



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Sourcing of material to be published

- 5. IMC will identify unpublished sources of potential value to genealogists and family historians for consideration as future IMC editions;
- 6. each year IMC receives a substantial number of publishing proposals. It will continue to encourage proposals for publication submitted independently by individual scholars and members of the public;
- 7. IMC will identify vulnerable or overlooked collections;
- 8. IMC will target Irish language sources of historical importance.

Establishing publishing priorities: financial control mechanism

Given budgetary constraints IMC Chair will present to each meeting of the Editorial and Publications Committee a list of approved projects, their likely completion dates and the resources available for publication costs. In the light of this report the Editorial and Publications Committee will make recommendations to the Commission on publishing priorities in the short and medium term.





Promoting IMC publications

Activities designed to underpin the promotion of IMC publications, and IMC's reputation, nationally and internationally, will be maintained and new actions initiated:

- 9. IMC will use broadcast, print and social media to promote IMC publications;
- 10. IMC will further develop the existing marketing and communications strategy to target scholars, academics, archivists, librarians, genealogists and students of history and culture, both nationally and internationally, as well as the general reading public;
- 11. IMC will devise a strategy to promote IMC sales and publications among members of regional and local history and genealogical societies;
- 12. IMC will commit to updating the design and content of the IMC website to better support the services it offers, particularly in relation to digital content;
- 13. IMC will contact international university schools and departments with an interest in the history of Ireland and its peoples in order to improve awareness of IMC publications;
- 14. IMC will increase awareness and distribution of the catalogue of IMC publications online and in print.



PUBLISHING PROGRAMME 2018-2022

MULTI-VOLUME EDITIONS

- The 1641 depositions (ed. Aidan Clarke), remaining volumes serially from 2018
- Books of Survey and Distribution (eds David Brown and Micheál Ó Siochrú), 5 vols simultaneously (2019)
- Calendar of state papers, Ireland, Tudor Period, (general editor Nicholas Canny; final vol. editor: Ciaran Brady) (2020)
- Commentarius Rinuccinianus (ed. James McGuire, translated by Gráinne McLaughlin et al.), 5 vols simultaneously (2021)
- A calendar of Irish chancery letters c. 1244–1509 (ed. Peter Crooks), 4 vols simultaneously (2022)

SINGLE-VOLUME EDITIONS

- Poema de Hibernia, a Jacobite Latin epic on the Williamite wars (eds Padraig Lenihan and Keith Sidwell) (2018)
- Calendar of entries in the Papal Registers relating to Great Britain and Ireland. Papal Letters, vol. XXIII, Part 1, 1523–1534, Clement VII, Lateran Registers (ed. for publication by Alan Macquarrie) (2018)
- Documents relating to the Bogs Commissioners, 1809–1813 (ed. Arnold Horner) (2018)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 49 (2018)
- The letters of Katherine Conolly, 1707–1747 (eds Marie-Louise Jennings and Gabrielle Ashford) (2018)
- Mapping Ireland c. 1550–1636: a catalogue of manuscript maps of Ireland (ed. Annaleigh Margey) (2019)
- Irish religious censuses of the 1760s (eds Brian Gurrin, Liam Kennedy and Kerby Miller) (2019)
- The Act Book of the Diocese of Armagh, 1518–1522 (ed. John McCafferty) (2019)
- The diary (1689–1719) and accounts (1704–1717) of Élie Bouhéreau (ed. Amy Prendergast) (2019)
- Trustees report arising from the Act of Resumption 1701 (eds C. Ivar McGrath and Frances Nolan) (2019)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 50 (2019)
- Irish Jesuit Annual Letters, 1604–1674 (ed. Vera Moynes) (2019)
- British perspectives on the 1916 Rising (ed. Deirdre McMahon) (2020)
- Irish maritime trade in the Restoration era: the letterbook of William Hovell, 1683–1686 (ed. James O'Shea) (2020)
- Business in Ireland 1782–1860: records of business partnerships in the Registry of Deeds (eds Sean Magee and Máire Mac Conghail) (2020)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 51 (2020)
- Letters to and from internment camps in Ireland, 1920–1921 (ed. William Murphy) (2021)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 52 (2021)
- List of 1922 salved materials from the PROI (ed. John McDonough) (2022)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 53 (2022)

As collaborative partner

The IMC is a body of subject matter experts with specialist knowledge in primary and secondary sources. The IMC will demonstrate its ongoing relevance to its core mission by developing cooperative initiatives.

Objective

The IMC will leverage this expertise in cooperation with, but not restricted to the national cultural institutions, professional bodies and groups, educators, departments and agencies to advance and promote the utilisation of primary records.

The actions required to achieve this objective are:

- 15. IMC will further develop special projects and collaborations such as the 1922 salved materials project with the NAI in order to present the rich treasury of sources for the history of Ireland and its peoples to the widest possible audience;
- 16. explore and develop specific partnerships where at risk records may be secured and preserved for public access;
- 17. support specific collection processing initiatives, in particular where the collection is identified as being of timely or research importance;
- 18. maximise access to its own publications through formal membership of the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) and other relevant Open Access repositories;
- 19. develop and progress inter disciplinary fora and events where its position as a neutral body can enable the invitation to and inclusion of disparate constituencies.





FAR RIGHT: Charred remains of a roll of parchment from the 1922 explosion (NAI)

As advisor



Strategic Development Plan 2018-2022

IMC will fulfil its remit as expert advisor on issues and policies relating to manuscripts, historical records and other cultural objects.

Objective

IMC will achieve this priority in the period 2018–2022 by providing advice, based on its collective institutional experience and the expertise of its individual members, to the Government, the national cultural institutions and other cultural bodies and institutions.

Advising

The following actions are required to achieve this strategic priority:

- 20. IMC will exercise its statutory obligations in relation to the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, to advise the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht at the Minister's direction (section 48, subsections 3 and 5), and it will make recommendations where appropriate to the Minister (under subsection 6);
- 21. IMC will advise the National Library of Ireland on the acquisition and publication of historical manuscripts relating to Ireland and its peoples;
- 22. IMC will identify issues of importance on which it can assist in developing policy or providing advice to cultural heritage policy makers;
- 23. IMC will offer informed advice to Government, and when appropriate to the Oireachtas, on the opening up of records and papers, closed to the research community, held in institutions under state control;
- 24. drawing on its own experience (see **as promoter of awareness**) IMC will advise Government on the need for a national policy on records preservation, access to preserved records and the use of preserved records by researchers, educators and the general public.

As promoter of awareness

Preserving records for the future

In the interests of preserving and improving access to primary sources of various kinds for Irish histories and cultures, and recognising the importance of collaboration in achieving these goals, IMC will further develop its awareness, advice and advocacy strategies among professionals in history and cognate disciplines, archivists, educational, cultural and vocational institutions (such as religious congregations and hospitals), the business community, custodians of private collections and the general public.

Objective

IMC will achieve this priority by continuing to provide encouragement and advice to institutions (public or private) and to individuals on preserving records in their keeping, be they current or non-current, by advocacy, and by continuing to heighten awareness that such records are, or may soon be, primary sources for Irish histories and cultures.

Raising awareness

The following actions will be pursued in order to achieve this strategic priority:

- 25. the Preservation and Access Awareness Committee (PAAC) will continue to liaise with like-minded statutory bodies (including NAI; city and county archivists; Archives and Records Association, Ireland; Local Authority Archivists' Group) and with relevant representative professional groups and individuals; where feasible, it will contribute to joint awareness, access and advocacy initiatives and the development of national policy. The Committee will continue to provide information and offer advice about preserving records (particularly business records and the records and papers of voluntary bodies) by expanding the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs section) on the IMC website. It will continue to provide follow-up links to specialist institutions and will contribute to organising an event to examine issues around access. The PAAC will continue to report twice-yearly to the IMC;
- 26. IMC will participate in certain archival preservation and access initiatives, such as the 1922 salved materials project with NAI;
- 27. IMC will continue its participation in Culture Night (held every year in September) in order to (a) showcase the work and publications of IMC, and (b) highlight the relevance and value of preserving records of all kinds;
- 28. IMC will organise an event around the Eoin MacNeill Lecture, which illustrates how historians draw from or interpret primary sources and emphasises the importance of preserving primary source materials.

As supporter of digital initiatives



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Best practice in producing digital resources

Digitisation of primary source materials, and their online availability, have transformed access to historical documents as well as their potential user-impact. This work helps foster an international community of scholarship, engaged with the public, through flagship projects ranging in focus from the medieval period to contemporary history. Moreover, the many subject-specific portals which have emerged (for example, e-codices, Gallica) have aided the dissemination of documents from the past to a wider public.

IMC is committed to promoting and supporting the digitisation of primary source materials, where relevant and sustainable, according to the standards of international best practice. While print-publication remains a core activity of the Commission, this will continue in tandem with digital initiatives that will help enhance the impact of the IMC's publications and projects.

Objective

Building on its last strategic plan (2012–2016), IMC has identified the following current and long-term objective:

IMC will continue to make the Commission's out-of-print editions available in searchable digital format, enhancing access to their contents and promoting best-practice in online publishing, ensuring quality-control and alignment with international standards.

Increasing IMC's digital impact

IMC has identified the following actions as central to realising its objectives for supporting digitisation in the period 2018–2022:

- 29. IMC will contribute, as a partner, to digitisation projects involving major primary sources, central to the remit of the IMC, such as the Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury project;
- 30. IMC will enhance the impact-value and dissemination of the Commission's digital assets through partnership with third level institutions and the DRI;
- 31. IMC will pursue ongoing digitisation on an annual basis of IMC editions already available in print;







As supporter of digital initiatives

continued

- 32. IMC will promote the use of digitisation protocols that are compliant with international best practice;
- 33. IMC will identify partners for important digitisation projects that will increase impact and awareness of Ireland's primary sources;
- 34. IMC will ensure preservation of, and open access to, out-of-print IMC editions through membership of the DRI;
- 35. make available downloadable PDFs of out-of-print IMC editions;
- 36. enhance co-operation with third level institutions, enabling the use of IMC Digital Editions and resources as pedagogical supports for students, further increasing the impact of the Commission's work and promoting awareness of primary sources for the history of Ireland.

Outcomes 2012-2016



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The following outcomes were achieved in the period covered by the Strategic Development Plan 2012–2016.

Publications:

IMC published the following twenty-two editions in 30 volumes in the period 2012–2016:

- Arrangements for the integration of Irish immigrants in England and Wales (by A. E. C. W. Spencer, ed. M. E. Daly)
- Infanticide in the Irish Crown Files at Assizes, 1883–1900 (ed. E. Farrell)
- The account books of the Franciscan House, Broad Lane, Cork, 1764–1921 (eds L. Kennedy and C. Murphy)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 43 (ed. J. Kelly)
- The register of St Saviour's Chantry of Waterford (ed. N. Byrne with M. Byrne, prepared for publication by K. W. Nicholls)
- Verse travesty in restoration Ireland: 'Purgatorium Hibernicum' with 'The Fingallian Travesty' (ed. A. Carpenter)
- The letterbook of Richard Hare, Cork merchant, 1771–1772 (ed. James O'Shea)
- Letterbook of George, 16th earl of Kildare (eds A. Clarke and B. McGrath)
- Great Parchment Book of Waterford (ed. N. Byrne), reprint in paperback
- Analecta Hibernica No. 44 (ed. J. Kelly)
- The Proclamations of Ireland, 1660–1820, in 5 vols (eds J. Kelly with M. Lyons)
- 1641 Depositions, vols I, II and III (ed. A. Clarke)
- Campaign journals of the Elizabethan Irish wars (ed. D. Edwards)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 45 (ed. J. Kelly)
- Calendar of State Papers Ireland, Tudor period, 1547–1553 (ed. Colm Lennon)
- The correspondence of James Ussher, 1600–1656, in 3 vols (ed. E. Boran)
- Early Stuart Irish warrants, 1623–1639: the Falkland and Wentworth administrations (ed. M. Empey)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 46 (ed. J. Kelly)
- The Acts of James II's Irish parliament of 1689 (eds J. Bergin and A. Lyall)
- 'Reform' treatises on Tudor Ireland, 1537–1599 (ed. D. Heffernan)
- Eoin MacNeill: memoir of a revolutionary scholar (ed. B. Hughes)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 47 (ed. J. Kelly)







Outcomes 2012-2016

continued

High-profile projects:

IMC remained committed to five high-profile projects in the period 2012–2016:

- Commentarius Rinuccinianus publishing for the first time a full English translation of the entire Commentarius, originally published in Latin only;
- Historia establishing the text and publishing for the first time a transcription from the Latin MS and a full English translation of a major but little-known source for seventeenthcentury Ireland;
- 1641 depositions publishing a fully edited print version, county by county, of contemporary depositions taken following the outbreak of hostilities in Ireland in autumn 1641;
- Irish chancery letters c. 1244–1509 publishing a major multi-volume edition based on the online Trinity College Dublin project;
- Books of Survey & Distribution in collaboration with the Down Survey project based at Trinity College Dublin, publishing a print edition of the entire set of manuscript volumes together with an online edition comprising the images and a search interface.

Publication approvals: at the beginning of 2018 thirty-eight projects stood formally approved for publication by IMC.

New proposals: submissions of publishing proposals for IMC editions have continued to grow in the period 2012–2016.

Major series published: in 2014 two major editions were published, namely the five-volume work edited by James Kelly with Marian Lyons entitled The Proclamations of Ireland, 1660–1820 and the first three volumes of the 12-volume series of the 1641 Depositions. The former series was subsequently used by the Statute Law Revision Project at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in its work to identify and remove outdated statutes.

Culture Night: since September 2008 IMC has participated enthusiastically in Culture Night. Visitors are shown examples of IMC publications, provided with a short lecture on IMC's activities and encouraged to be archives aware.

Launches: between 2012 and 2016 IMC held ten launches four of which were held outside of Dublin, two launches were held in Cork, and one each in Waterford and Belfast.

Europeana: from 2012 to 2015 IMC continued to act as a national aggregator for digital content for the Europeana portal. In 2012 IMC actively promoted the Europeana portal to Irish cultural institutions but also to developers in the creative industries. In January 2012 IMC hosted a workshop on the Europeana Data Exchange Agreement for Irish cultural heritage





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institutions providing content to the portal. In late 2012 IMC organised a hackathon aimed at content developers using the data in Europeana to create novel applications.

Eoin MacNeill Lecture: during the period 2012 to 2016 two MacNeill Lectures were given. In 2012 the inaugural lecture was given by Professor Eamon Duffy, Emeritus Professor of Christianity at Magdalene College, Cambridge. The lecture was entitled 'The Reformation and the Grand Narrative: the archive and the writing of the English Reformation' and it was published in pamphlet form in 2013. In 2015 the second MacNeill Lecture was given by Professor Robert Darnton, then Harvard University Librarian, on a theme of 'A literary Tour de France, 1778: from archives to the internet'.

The Gathering 2013: as part of its remit to promote access to materials for the history, culture and heritage of Ireland and its peoples, IMC donated copies of five publications to all seventeen regional archive services in January 2013. The following titles were donated: The Convert Rolls—the calendar of the Convert Rolls, 1703–1838, 2nd edition, edited by Eileen O'Byrne and Anne Chamney with Fr Wallace Clare's annotated list of converts 1703–78; The census of Elphin, 1749, edited by Marie-Louise Legg; A Census of Ireland circa 1659 with essential materials from the Poll Money Ordinances, 1660–1661, edited by Séamus Pender with a new introduction by William J. Smyth; Court of Claims: Submissions and Evidence, 1663, edited by Geraldine Tallon; and The Irish Commission of 1622. An investigation of the Irish Administration, 1615–22, and its consequences, 1623–24, edited by Victor Treadwell. These publications are invaluable reference works for local studies services and family history researchers.

Irish Archives Resource (IAR): IMC promoted and continues to promote access to archival sources through its continued support of the work of the IAR. IMC is represented on the IAR Steering Committee which seeks to maintain and develop the portal launched in 2011 through which the collections of many smaller archive services throughout Ireland can be searched.

Digital assets: during the period 2012–2016 IMC digitised 77 out-of-print editions and made available online a searchable database of the contents of the 2012 edition The account books of the Franciscan House, Broad Lane, Cork, 1764–1921, edited by L. Kennedy and C. Murphy. The first phase of the Books of Survey and Distribution project was completed in early 2016 and a copy of the high resolution digital images of the 20 manuscript volumes was formally handed over to the Director of the National Archives of Ireland in September 2016.

Decade of centenaries: two publications which form part of the IMC programme of commemorative editions were published in 2016 — Analecta Hibernica No. 47, edited by James Kelly and Eoin MacNeill, memoir of a revolutionary scholar, edited by Brian Hughes.



Organisation Chart

The following diagram details the personnel and organisation of the Irish Manuscripts Commission as of April 2018.

Analecta Hibernica

Edited by James Kelly

Honorary members

Louis Cullen, emeritus professor of irish history, tcd

Brian Trainor, FORMER DIRECTOR, PRONI AND FORMER DIRECTOR, ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION

Members

John McCafferty, UCD, CHAIR

Ciara Breathnach, UL

Liam Chambers, MIC

Sandra Collins, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

Patrick Geoghegan, TCD

David Hayton, QUB/UU

Alvin Jackson, university of edinburgh

Elva Johnston, UCD

James Kelly, DCU

Marian Lyons, Maynooth university

Máire Mac Conghail

John McDonough, NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF IRELAND

Kate Manning, UCD

Hiram Morgan, UCC

Nicola Morris

Thomas O'Connor, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, NUI GALWAY

Mary O'Dowd, QUB

Jane Ohlmeyer, TCD

Michael Willis, public record office of northern ireland

Editorial and Publications Standing Committee

John McCafferty Ciara Breathnach Alvin Jackson James Kelly Máire Mac Conghail Nicola Morris Dáibhí Ó Cróinín Mary O'Dowd Jane Ohlmeyer

Preservation and Access Awareness Committee

Máire Mac Conghail Marian Lyons Kate Manning Mary O'Dowd

Administrator

Cathy Hayes

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