

**Value for Money and Policy Review of the Support
for Irish Emigrant Groups Programme**

July, 2007

Goodbody Economic Consultants

Ballsbridge Park, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 • Tel: 353-1-6410482 • Fax: 353-1-6682388
www.goodbody.ie/consultants/ • e-mail – econsultants@goodbody.ie

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
1. INTRODUCTION	9
1.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE	9
1.2 APPROACH OF THE CONSULTANTS	10
1.3 ORGANISATION OF THE REPORT	11
2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROGRAMME	12
2.1 INTRODUCTION	12
2.2 KEY FINDINGS OF THE WALTER ET AL STUDY	13
2.3 THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON EMIGRATION	14
2.4 CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP	15
2.5 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IRISH ABROAD UNIT	16
2.6 OTHER STATE PROGRAMMES	16
2.7 STRATEGY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	18
2.8 CONCLUSIONS ON BACKGROUND AND COMPATIBILITY WITH STRATEGY	21
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME	22
3.1 INTRODUCTION AND OVERALL OBJECTIVES	22
3.2 OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME	22
3.3 THE PROGRAMME IN BRITAIN	24
3.4 PROJECTS FUNDED IN BRITAIN	25
3.5 THE PROGRAMME IN OTHER COUNTRIES	29
3.6 CONCLUSION	33
4. RELEVANCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE PROGRAMME	34
4.1 INTRODUCTION	34
4.2 UPDATE ON NEEDS	34
4.3 PROGRAMME INPUTS	36
4.4 PROGRAMME OUTPUTS	37
4.5 PROGRAMME IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES	39
4.6 ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES	43
4.7 CONCLUSION ON RELEVANCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY	44
5. SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE PROGRAMME	46
5.1 INTRODUCTION	46
5.2 SELECTION PROCESS IN BRITAIN	46
5.3 ASSESSMENT OF SELECTION PROCESS	47
5.4 SELECTION PROCESSES IN OTHER COUNTRIES	52
5.5 CONCLUSION ON SELECTION PROCESS	52
6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME	54
6.1 INTRODUCTION	54
6.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN BRITAIN	54
6.3 MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES	55
6.4 CONCLUSION ON MONITORING AND EVALUATION	55
7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	58
7.1 INTRODUCTION	58
7.2 CONCLUSIONS	58
7.3 RECOMMENDATIONS	60

APPENDICES	65
APPENDIX 1: CASE STUDIES	66
APPENDIX 2: TABLE OF GRANTS IN BRITAIN.....	83
APPENDIX 3 : TABLE OF GRANTS IN UNITED STATES.....	87
APPENDIX 4 : THE AISLING IRISH CENTER, NEW YORK.....	88

List of Tables

TABLE 2.1	DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES FOR IRISH EMIGRANTS	20
TABLE 3.1	SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE UNDER THE PROGRAMME, 2003 - 2006	24
TABLE 3.2	SUMMARY OF PROJECT FUNDING IN BRITAIN, 2003 - 2006	25
TABLE 3.3	SUMMARY OF PROJECT FUNDING IN THE USA, 2003 - 2006	29
TABLE 3.4	PROJECT FUNDING IN AUSTRALIA, 2003 - 2006	31
TABLE 3.5	PROJECT FUNDING IN OTHER COUNTRIES	32
TABLE 3.6	PROJECT FUNDING IN IRELAND, 2003 - 2006	33
TABLE 4.1	ESTIMATED EMIGRATION BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, 2001-2006	35
TABLE 4.2	DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL WORKING ON PROGRAMME	36
TABLE 4.3	SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE UNDER THE PROGRAMME, 2003 - 2006	37
TABLE 4.4	ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED UNDER THE PROGRAMME, 2003 - 2006	38
TABLE 4.5	POSTS SUPPORTED UNDER THE PROGRAMME, 2003 - 2006	39
TABLE 7.1	SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	62

List of Figures

FIGURE 3.1	GROWTH IN PROGRAMME FUNDING, 2003 - 2006	23
FIGURE 3.2	SHARE OF PROGRAMME FUNDING, 2006	23
FIGURE 4.1	GROWTH IN NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS FUNDED	38
FIGURE 5.1	POSSIBLE FORMAT FOR DÍON BUDGET	51
FIGURE 6.1	POSSIBLE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR GRANT AIDED PROJECTS	56

Executive Summary

Introduction

Goodbody Economic Consultants was commissioned by the Department of Foreign Affairs to carry out a value for money and policy review of the Department's Programme of support for voluntary groups working with Irish emigrant communities around the world.

Background and Assessment of Needs

Widespread public concern about problems faced by Irish emigrants led to a commitment to action in the 2000 National Partnership Agreement. Following this extensive work was done to identify, and determine the scale of, the relevant needs, and to design an appropriate response. As part of this Review, Goodbody Economic Consultants have updated this initial assessment of needs. Significant needs remain among Irish emigrants. This Programme remains the main method available to address these needs.

Description of the Programme

The primary emphasis of the Programme has been supporting frontline information and welfare services for vulnerable Irish emigrants. Following recent increases in funding for the programme, it has expanded to include a number of capital projects, as well as projects which foster a greater sense of community abroad. Recent grants have included grants to organisations to support the social, sporting and heritage activities of Irish emigrants. In order to maximise the impact of spending, and in recognition of the primary role of the host governments of Irish migrants in the provision of welfare services, grants are aimed at community and voluntary organisations that help migrants access their rights and entitlements in their host countries.

Effectiveness and Efficiency of the programme

In the period under review the Programme has expanded, with impressive speed, into a significant Government programme with a broad geographic and activity scope. It has made impressive progress towards its objectives of connecting vulnerable Irish emigrants to the statutory and voluntary services that they need and developing and strengthening the Irish voluntary sector and Irish communities abroad. More recently, it has made its first steps towards addressing the social, sporting and heritage activities of Irish communities abroad. However, the original design of the Programme has proven to be efficient and effective, and there is no indication of a need for significant change.

Priorities for the future include:

- Continuing current actions in social and welfare provision while needs persist, and filling any remaining gaps in the network of funded organisations; and,
- Expanding the heritage, social and sporting aspects of the Programme in a planned manner;

Selection Process for the Programme

The selection processes used have worked well, and the grants made have been directed to organisations that have used them in an effective and efficient way to work towards the objectives of the Programme. The selection process has had valuable volunteer input from members of the Irish communities in Britain and the United States. The rapid growth of the Programme means that selection processes that have worked well until now may no longer be appropriate in the future. This is particularly the case in Britain. The set of grants given under the Programme, other than the strategic objectives of the Department, has been driven by the range of applications received, with little formal priority setting in the allocation of funds by the Department.

A number of recommendations arise from this Review. These are particularly relevant to the Programme in Britain, but should be implemented, as a matter of best practice, in the other areas where the Programme operates.

- Strategic priorities (top down) should be increasingly evident in the allocation process. Before considering individual grant applications a decision should be made in principle as to the allocation of grants by type of project and location.
- Steps should be taken to recognise and secure the participation of Irish community representatives, with a wide range of skill sets, in the process of considering grant applications.
- The current emphasis on formalising the application process must be continued and reinforced.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Programme

Monitoring and Evaluation processes for the Programme have been relatively informal to date. However, they have been sufficient to ensure that the Programme has operated well. As the Programme continues to grow there is an urgent need to put a formalised system of monitoring and evaluation. This will require more resources to be devoted to the administration of the Programme.

Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations

This Programme remains essential to addressing urgent needs among Irish emigrants around the world, and has a challenging range of objectives. It has grown into a complex grant programme of considerable size. Total expenditure grew from approximately €3m in 2003 to almost €12m in 2006. By 2007 expenditure had grown further to slightly over €15m. Projects are grant aided in eight different jurisdictions around the world, compared to four in 2003. The total number of projects receiving grant aid has grown from 73 in 2003 to 184 in 2006.

The Programme has made impressive progress towards its objectives of connecting vulnerable Irish emigrants to the statutory and voluntary services that they need and, developing and strengthening the Irish voluntary sector and Irish communities abroad. The Programme has also made its first steps towards addressing other aspects of Irish heritage.

The approach adopted in this programme, of providing additional resources to voluntary organisations has been extremely effective and efficient. Achieving the same impact through any of the alternative approaches available, such as an expanded consular service, or the formation of a dedicated Agency, would have been significantly less efficient. The approach adopted, of providing resources to voluntary bodies:

- Tapped into the energy and volunteer work of the Irish Communities around the world.
- Used the detailed knowledge of needs and resources of the Irish Communities around the world.
- Was flexible and adapted to local needs and priorities as it was delivered through a large number of locally based, specialised organisations rather than through a centralised service.

The selection processes in place for the period under review have worked well. However, in view of the growth of the Programme, systems that have worked well until now may need to be more formal in the future. In particular:

- A top down element should be introduced in to the allocation process; and,
- The current emphasis on formalising the application process must be continued and reinforced.

As the Programme continues to grow there is an urgent need to put in a formalised system of monitoring and evaluation. This will require more resources to be devoted to the administration of the Programme. The system should include the following elements:

- Applicants for grants should be required to indicate performance indicators and the targets that they expect to reach.
- Performance indicators should be reviewed and collated into overall measures of Programme performance.
- The heritage, social and sporting aspects of the Programme can now be expanded. If funding allows, it will also be possible to implement a research aspect to the Programme.

1. Introduction

1.1 Terms of Reference

Goodbody Economic Consultants were appointed to carry out a Value for Money and Policy Review (“the Review”) of the Support for Irish Emigrant Groups Programme (“the Programme”) of the Department of Foreign Affairs (“the Department”). The precise terms of the Review were based on the Department of Finance template for Value for Money and Policy Reviews. In relation to the Programme, Goodbody Economic Consultants were to:

- Provide an assessment of needs, drawing on existing studies and reports.
- Identify the objectives of the Programme, examine the continued validity of these objectives and assess their compatibility with the overall strategy of the Department.
- Define the outputs for the Programme and identify the level and trend of these outputs since 2003.
- Examine the extent to which the objectives of the Programme have been achieved in the period since 2003, and comment on the effectiveness with which they have been achieved. Identify any barriers to evaluating the effectiveness of actions.
- Identify the level and trend of costs and staffing resources of the Programme and comment on the efficiency with which it has achieved its objectives.
- Evaluate the degree to which the objectives of the Programme warrant the allocation of public funding on a current and ongoing basis and examine the scope for alternative policy or organisational approaches to achieving these objectives on a more efficient and/or effective basis.
- Examine other aspects of the design of the Programme, including the criteria for selection of partners in the voluntary sector, and the criteria for allocation of resources.
- Prepare a brief overview on any other Irish statutory support for emigrant services and any international parallels in the delivery of support to emigrants.
- Make recommendations on the design of the programme, including:
 - Specification of potential future performance indicators that might be used to better monitor the performance of the Programme;

- Identification of ways to overcome any barrier to evaluating the effectiveness of actions;
 - Criteria for selection of partners in the voluntary sector; and,
 - Criteria for allocation of resources.
- Make recommendations on the accountability and administration of the Programme, including on:
 - Appraisal of applications;
 - Monitoring and reporting, including on financial issues as well as on procedures to track the level and trend of outputs and outcomes;
 - Management of information relating to the administration of the Programme;
 - Processes for evaluation and audit; and,
 - Processes for ensuring compliance with Government guidelines in relation to grants to non-Governmental organisations.

1.2 Approach of the Consultants

Goodbody Economic Consultants' approach to the study included the following steps:

- An initial planning meeting with the Steering Committee responsible for this Review. This meeting reached a common understanding of the above terms of reference and finalised an agreed approach to the Review.
- A review of detailed information on:
 - The financial and manpower inputs into the programme;
 - The outputs of the Programme in terms of numbers and values of grants, numbers of recipient organisations and impact on these organisations; and,
 - Procedures and forms used in the grant application and allocation process.

This information was gathered from Department sources with the assistance of Department staff.

- Desk research covering relevant background material including:
 - The Walter et al academic study commissioned by the Task Force on Policy Regarding Emigrants;
 - The report of the Task Force;
 - The report of the Implementation Group charged with implementing the Task Force report;
 - The Department of Foreign Affairs Strategic Plan;
 - The "Díon Committee" Strategic Plan;
 - A review of the Programme in Britain commissioned from management consultants.

- A sample of project files covering Díon projects in Britain and USA projects was reviewed and discussed with Department staff.
- Visits to a representative group of funded projects in London and Manchester; and
- Interviews with relevant officials and key stakeholders in Dublin and Britain were held to gain a firm understanding of the operation of the programme, and insights into the policy context.

1.3 Organisation of the Report

The report is organised as follows. Section 2 sets out the background to the development of the Programme, and the current indications of the continuing need for the Programme. Section 3 then describes the operation of the programme, both in overall terms and by describing typical examples of the projects funded under the programme. Section 4 presents data on the Programme Inputs, Outputs and Impacts. It draws conclusions on the extent to which the Programme is achieving its objectives and draws conclusions on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme. Section 5 describes and assesses the procedures in place for selecting the projects that receive grant aid under the programme. Section 6 describes and assesses the procedures in place for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Programme and of the grant aided projects. Section 7 concludes the report by drawing together the conclusions of the Review and making recommendations for refinements and improvements to the Programme.

2. Background to the Programme

2.1 Introduction

This section of the report considers the background to the development and operation of the Support for Irish Emigrant Groups Programme in the period 2003 – 2006.

At the very highest level of public policy, Article 2 of the Constitution states that:

“It is the entitlement and birthright of every person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, to be part of the Irish Nation. That is also the entitlement of all persons otherwise qualified in accordance with law to be citizens of Ireland. Furthermore, the Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage.”

Primary responsibility for Irish citizens outside Ireland lies with the Department of Foreign Affairs, as specified in its own strategy. In particular, the Department of Foreign Affairs has responsibility for policy in relation to emigration, which forms part of its consular duties. As part of this responsibility the Department operates the Support to Emigrant Groups Programme under which grants are provided to voluntary organisations that support Irish communities abroad.

It is worth recalling that the experience of emigration has long been a central feature of Irish life, and that there are long standing Irish communities all over the world. In terms of world emigration Ireland occupies a remarkable place in that, in recent centuries, very large numbers of its people have emigrated relative to the overall population. It is well known that many more people resident outside Ireland claim at least some connection with Ireland, than are currently resident in Ireland. In the vast majority of cases, emigration has been a positive experience for emigrants, their host countries and Ireland. Irish communities around the world play an important and positive role in their host countries, and have a long record of providing help and support to Ireland.

However, a significant number of Irish people abroad face needs that are not addressed by the services available in their host countries. This has long been recognised as an issue requiring the attention of the Irish government. For example, financial support on a smaller scale was provided to community and voluntary bodies working with Irish emigrants in Britain prior to the period under review. Certain projects in Britain were funded from as early as 1984. This funding was provided by the Department of Labour. Certain projects were also funded in the United States prior to the period under review.

By 2000, there was increasing public concern about the problems faced by communities of Irish emigrants around the world and a growing sense that economic success at home should also benefit the vulnerable sections of the Irish community abroad. As a result, that year's Partnership Agreement, "The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness 2000" included a commitment to "address the special needs of those Irish emigrants abroad who are particularly marginalised or at greatest risk of exclusion"¹.

In December 2001, as a first step to fulfilling this commitment, the Minister for Foreign Affairs established a Task Force on Policy Regarding Emigrants with the objective of recommending a more coherent long-term policy approach to meeting the needs of Irish emigrants. The Task Force's terms of reference required that special consideration be given to pre-departure services, services for emigrants overseas and services for returning emigrants. As part of its work, the Task Force commissioned a group of academics to produce a background study outlining existing work and data on Irish emigrants². This study, referred to below as "Walter et al" was published alongside the Task Force's own report in 2002³. An inter-departmental working group was established in October 2002 to consider and implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

The welfare of Irish emigrants is now a central part of the strategy of the department.

2.2 Key Findings of the Walter et al Study

The Walter et al study brought together various sources of information to provide a summary of the interpretations of the causes and circumstances of contemporary Irish emigration and return migration, as well as documenting existing data on numbers of Irish emigrants and the level of service provision to them.

The study highlighted the dearth of accurate data available regarding the number of Irish emigrants residing abroad. According to the study over 1.2m Irish born people, or in the region of 20 per cent of all Irish born people, were living outside the island of Ireland in 1991. Among these, it was estimated that approximately three-quarters were living in Britain, 20 per cent were living in the USA, with the remainder living mainly in Australia, New Zealand and the rest of the EU.

The study highlights the different experiences of Irish emigrants according to the destination in which they settle. While Irish emigrants in Britain are not

¹ The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness 2000 - Section 4.6: "Commitment to the Wider World"; Stationery Office, Dublin, 2000

² Bronwen Walter, Breda Gray, Linda Dowling and Sarah Morgan: "A study of the existing sources of information and analysis about Irish emigrants and Irish communities abroad".

³ "Ireland and the Irish Abroad" Report of the Task Force on Policy regarding Emigrants. Available at foreignaffairs.gov.ie/policy/emigrant_taskforce.asp

subject to immigration restrictions, the study notes they have experienced marked forms of discrimination. The study also draws attention to the more vulnerable sections of the Irish population in Britain, including new emigrants without the financial resources to support themselves, and the elderly who do not claim welfare benefits and social support services to which they are entitled. Other vulnerable sections of the Irish community in Britain include: the mentally ill; drug users; homeless persons and Travellers. Outside of Britain, in the USA, Australia, Canada and New Zealand the major issue of vulnerability, especially among newer generation Irish emigrants, is that of citizen rights and the corresponding barriers to employment, social security, integration and social inclusion. There are also clusters of older generation emigrants with little or no savings who experience problems of isolation and poverty.

According to the study, Britain had the best-developed system of support for Irish emigrants, drawing on a mix of state, local authority and ethnically-supported voluntary initiatives. The support however is noted as being small relative to needs, and welfare support, in particular, is restricted to the larger centres of London, Birmingham and Manchester. Outside of Britain, support for Irish emigrants is largely confined to voluntary organisations involved in the provision of welfare advice and social and cultural support. In the USA one of the major providers of advice and material support is the Catholic Church. Services are also available to Irish emigrants and the elderly through state, local and federally funded government or non-profit agencies all around New York. However, often the Irish do not avail of the programmes because they do not know they exist or do not know how to access them.

The study concluded that Irish communities abroad have needs arising from both their ethnicity and their migrant status. Some needs are material and take the form of support in accessing resources to which they are entitled which will help relieve situations of homelessness, poverty and isolation; but others relate to recognition of the difficulties involved with being separated from family and culture in Ireland.

2.3 The Report of the Task Force on Emigration

Drawing on the outcome of the Walter et al study, the Task Force report confirmed the existence of urgent needs among Irish emigrants that could be addressed through action by the Irish government. The Task Force recommended the adoption of a “strategic and integrated approach” to the issue and put forward a range of policy objectives including:

- Ensuring, as far as possible, that Irish who emigrate do so voluntarily and on the basis of informed choice and are properly prepared to live independently abroad;
- Protecting and supporting the Irish abroad, particularly those who emigrated involuntarily and those who find themselves marginalised or at risk of social exclusion;

- Facilitating the return to Ireland and reintegration into Irish society of emigrants who wish to do so, especially the vulnerable and the elderly;
- Supporting the Irish abroad who wish to express and share the Irish dimension of their identity.

With regard to these overall policy objectives a number of actions under the three headings of pre-departure services, services to the Irish abroad and services to returning emigrants were proposed. Two of the recommended actions to provide services to the Irish abroad were:

- The allocation of increased financial assistance to voluntary agencies and programmes abroad, which provide welfare services to Irish people who are vulnerable or excluded; and
- The provision of financial assistance towards the cost of Irish community cultural and sporting activities abroad where these help people to express the Irish dimension of their identity.

The Task Force also proposed that the responsibility for overall policy on emigration be given to the Department of Foreign Affairs. It also proposed the establishment of a new Agency for the Irish Abroad, under the aegis of the Department of Foreign Affairs to co-ordinate the provision of services to Irish emigrants and Irish communities abroad, and the establishment of a new Unit within the Department. The Task Force recommended the putting in place of substantial resources to meet the identified needs in this area.

2.4 Conclusions of the Inter-Departmental Working Group

The Interdepartmental Working Group reported on the recommendations of the Task Force in November 2003. The Working Group generally accepted the proposals and the policy objectives put forward by the Task Force. The Group recommended that priorities for additional funding should include:

- Improving services to the Irish in Britain via the Díon Fund⁴;
- Promoting capacity building in the allocation of grants from the Díon Fund;
- Supporting the work of voluntary organisations (in receipt of Díon Fund funding) that are working with returning migrants to Ireland;
- Assisting voluntary agencies providing assistance to Irish immigrants in the USA and Australia;
- Promoting greater communication and cooperation between voluntary and statutory agencies at home and abroad; and
- Increasing support to voluntary agencies in Ireland providing pre-emigration advice and support;

⁴ The scheme of grants for groups in Britain is referred to as the Díon Fund. The Department has established a committee of community leaders and academics with broad experience of and familiarity with the issues facing the Irish community in Britain (the “Díon Committee”) who assist in the grant allocation process.

The Working Group recommended that any increase in resources should specifically be concentrated on improving services for vulnerable Irish emigrants requiring special assistance and support.

The Working Group recommended that the Department of Foreign Affairs take overall responsibility for policy in this area and this recommendation was adopted.

2.5 Establishment of the Irish Abroad Unit

In accordance with Article 2 of the Constitution (see 2.1 above), in July 2004, the Minister for Foreign Affairs announced his decision to establish a dedicated unit for Irish emigrants, the Irish Abroad Unit, within his Department.

The Irish Abroad Unit operates the Support to Emigrant Groups Programme under which grants are provided to voluntary organisations that support Irish communities abroad and is responsible for promoting progress on initiatives regarding emigrants. Included in the Unit's remit is supporting the work of voluntary agencies working with Irish emigrants, those considering emigration and those wishing to return to Ireland. Strengthening links with Irish people and people of Irish ancestry living abroad is also part of the Unit's role. This commitment of resources, and the creation of a dedicated unit within the Department for the needs of the Irish abroad, was well received by civil society, with both the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants and the Federation of Irish Societies welcoming this initiative.

2.6 Other State Programmes

In addition to the Department of Foreign Affairs' Support for Irish Emigrant Groups Programme, there are a number of other initiatives which provide assistance to intending Irish emigrants, Irish emigrants overseas and returning emigrants. These are the responsibility of: the Department of Social and Family Affairs; the Department of Environment and Local Government; and, the Department of Education and Science. These initiatives are briefly described below:

2.6.1 The Department of Social and Family Affairs

The Department of Social and Family Affairs supports emigrant groups by providing information services to intending emigrants and returnees. The Department's 'Information Services' administer a scheme of grants under the general title of "Grants for the Development and Promotion of Information and Welfare Rights". The purpose of the scheme is to fund a number of nationally-based information organisations, including those involved with providing advice to emigrants. The Department of Social and Family Affairs allocated €357,380 for emigrant advice projects under this scheme in 2006.

An example of a project funded under the scheme is the 'Returning to Ireland' information guide published by Emigrant Advice, a Dublin-based organisation in the Voluntary sector. This guide provides information on statutory services and entitlements that is helpful to those giving consideration to returning to Ireland. It can be accessed on-line, or in a printed version.

2.6.2 The Department of the Environment and Local Government

The Department of the Environment and Local Government have also contributed to the statutory response to the needs of returning emigrants. Under the amendment made to the terms of that Department's voluntary housing capital assistance scheme in 2001, up to 25% of accommodation in projects provided throughout the country by individual voluntary housing bodies with funding under the scheme may be allocated to elderly returning emigrants who satisfy eligibility criteria and are included on the waiting list of the Safe Home Programme.

Safe Home, an organisation in the Voluntary sector, assesses applications from returning elderly emigrants, compiles a list of eligible applicants and liaises with voluntary housing bodies. It is supported financially by a number of Government Departments: The Department of Foreign Affairs supports the salaries of four members of staff, the Department of Social and Family Affairs provides a grant towards Safe Home's information projects such as its newsletter, and the Department of the Environment and Local Government provides a grant, decided annually, towards its running costs (€2,000 in 2006).

2.6.3 The Department of Education and Science

The Department of Education and Science is supporting the implementation of various schemes designed to investigate and alleviate past abuse of children who were resident in industrial schools and other institutions, many of whom subsequently emigrated. These include:

- A statutory Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse, with extensive powers to investigate allegations of abuse brought before it. The Commission inquiry is now at an advanced stage and a report is expected to be completed later this year. Department expenditure on the Commission inquiry to end 2006 was €3.4 million approximately.
- A counselling service and helpline operated under the auspices of the Health Services Executive, providing free counselling to victims of institutional abuse.

- A statutory Redress Board providing financial redress for persons who as children suffered abuse in residential institutions under the supervision or regulation of the State. The closing date for applications to the Board was 15th December 2005. Department expenditure on the Redress Board to end 2006 was approximately €64 million.
- An educational grant scheme for former residents and their families. Department expenditure on the scheme to end 2006 was approximately €2.9 million

Former residents of institutions who now reside abroad are entitled to avail of these schemes and many have done so.

The Department of Education and Science also provides funding for information and support services for former residents of institutions, including funding for five Outreach Services for those now resident in England. These services are located within existing Irish centres in London (Harringey and Camden), Manchester, Sheffield and Coventry. The Department's expenditure in this area during 2006 was €0.6 million (approximately €3m to date).

2.7 Strategy of the Department of Foreign Affairs

Following the evidence-based policy making process described at Sections 2.1 to 2.4 above, the provision of support to Irish emigrants has become an integral part of the Strategy of the Department of Foreign Affairs. A dedicated unit within the Department, the Irish Abroad Unit, is charged with this work. This unit works with the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Department, and supervises the grant schemes referred to above.

In the years since 2000, there has been a continued high level of interest in the problems faced by Irish emigrants, and pressure from the public and opinion formers to ensure that addressing these problems is part of Government policy. For example, since 2002, over 200 parliamentary questions have been asked on the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Emigration, the welfare of the undocumented Irish in the United States the funding of emigrant groups in Britain. The tenor of all of these questions was to ensure that enough was being done to address the needs of Irish emigrants.

The Department's current strategy is based on six high level goals⁵. The sixth of these is; "Protect and support the interests of Irish citizens abroad, maintain and strengthen links with people of Irish ancestry, and provide a modern and efficient passport and consular service."

In order to work towards these goals over the period of the Strategy, the Department has defined a set of Objectives, each with subsidiary Strategies and Key Performance Indicators. One set of these Objectives relates to

⁵ The Department's Strategy Statement for 2005 – 2007 is available at www.foreignaffairs.gov.ie

Support to Irish emigrants. The Objectives which the Department has set for itself in this respect are as follows:

- **Coordinate the provision of Government support to Irish emigrants, those considering emigration and those who wish to return to Ireland.**

The Department meets this objective by regularly reviewing progress in implementing the Task Force's recommendations and by liaising with other Government Departments active in the provision of services to emigrants.

- **Work closely with and support the voluntary agencies that assist Irish emigrants, those considering emigration and those who wish to return to Ireland.**

This objective is met by promoting closer cooperation between statutory and voluntary agencies in Ireland and abroad; enhancing the capacity of voluntary agencies to engage with the statutory sector; ensuring that funding is directed to the organisations that assist vulnerable Irish people abroad; reviewing the grant application process and ensuring a rigorous evaluation process is put in place.

- **Strengthen links with Irish people and people of Irish ancestry living abroad.**

The Department proposes to achieve this objective by deepening relationships between Ireland and its community abroad and developing initiatives which will enhance the special affinity of Ireland with people of Irish ancestry living abroad.

The Department has also set out a number of key performance indicators against which it can measure its success in achieving the objectives set out above. The performance indicators include:

- Improved co-ordination arrangements with other Government Departments;
- Frequency of meetings at home and abroad with partners in the voluntary sector;
- Number of evaluations carried out;
- Financial systems reviewed and revised to take account of increased allocations;
- Review of grant application process completed;
- Increased range of contacts with stakeholders; and
- The elaboration of policy on interaction with Irish people and those with Irish ancestry abroad.

Table 2.1 below describes how each of the Department's current objectives is addressed by the Irish Abroad Unit and the Programme.

Table 2.1: Department Objectives for Irish Emigrants

Department Objective	How Addressed
Ongoing review of progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force.	Ongoing task of the Irish Abroad Unit
Close liaison and regular meetings with other Government Departments providing services which impact on emigrants.	This is now a key part of the work of the Irish Abroad Unit. For example, the Programme contributes to joint projects with the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
Promoting closer cooperation between statutory and voluntary agencies in Ireland and abroad and provide Voluntary agencies with an effective channel of communication to the Government.	Ongoing task of the Irish Abroad Unit. In addition the Programme funds network or umbrella bodies for voluntary organisation in Britain and the United States that pursue exactly this task.
Enhance the capacity of voluntary agencies to engage with the statutory authorities of their host country.	In many cases grants from the programme are used to employ staff with the necessary skills to engage in this work, In addition the network or umbrella bodies funded by the Programme, such as the Federation of Irish Societies in Britain, pursue exactly this task.
Ensure that funding is directed to the organisations that assist vulnerable Irish people abroad	As discussed in the remainder of this report, the Dfon grant programme in Britain, and the grant giving activity in other jurisdictions are structured to support exactly these groups.
Reviewing grant application procedures with a view to identifying and implementing improvements; and ensure a rigorous evaluation process	The Department has constantly refined the application procedure for grants during the life of the programme. The current Value for Money Review is an element of this activity. See in particular Sections 5 and 6 below.
Deepen the relationship between Ireland and its community abroad.	All aspects of the Programme, from building links between diplomatic and consular missions and voluntary groups, to strengthening voluntary groups, to the delivery of services by these groups to Irish emigrants, contribute to this objective.
Developing initiatives which will enhance the special affinity of Ireland with people of Irish ancestry living abroad.	Recent moves by the Programme to finance projects that support the heritage, social and sporting activities of Irish communities will move towards this Objective.

Source: Goodbody Economic Consultants

This analysis of the Programme in the light of the Department's Strategy, supports the current moves to expand the programme into heritage social and sporting projects.

2.8 Conclusions on Background and Compatibility with Strategy

The initial impetus for the expansion of this Programme was a widespread public concern among all social partners that more needed to be done to address problems faced by Irish emigrants. This led to a commitment to action in the 2000 National Partnership Agreement.

Before this Programme got underway extensive work was done to identify and quantify the relevant needs, and to design an appropriate response. This initial assessment indicated that a significant number of Irish emigrants faced needs that could not readily be addressed by the social systems in the States where they lived, and that these needs would be long lasting.

The Department was charged with addressing these problems faced by Irish emigrants around the world. The Department's Strategy includes a detailed set of Objectives, Strategies to pursue this task. These are complemented by a set of Key Performance Indicators, to which the Department has committed itself.

The Programme under review is a major part of the Department's work to address the needs of Irish emigrants. It is designed and operated in a way that is compatible with the Department's Strategy and that addresses many of the Objectives and Strategies identified in the Department's Strategy.

The next section describes the activities financed by this Programme and discusses the scope to extend the Programme beyond projects to address urgent social needs, to include projects to address social, sporting and heritage activities.

3. Description of the Programme

3.1 Introduction and Overall Objectives

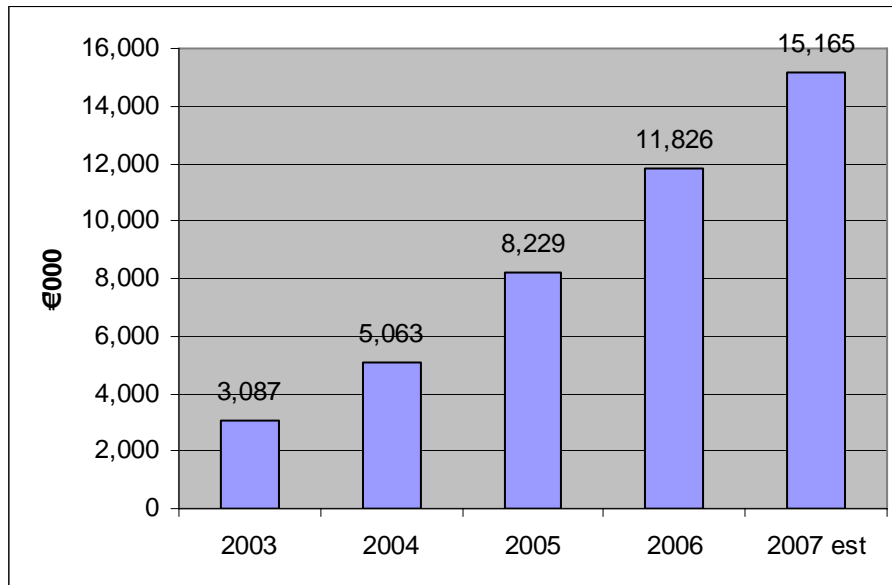
The Programme that is the subject of this review is the Support to Emigrant Groups Programme operated by the Department of Foreign Affairs. Under this Programme grants are provided to voluntary organisations that support Irish communities abroad.

The primary emphasis of funding has been, and continues to be, supporting frontline information and welfare services for vulnerable Irish emigrants. Increasing funding for the Programme has made it possible to expand the scope of the Programme to include a small number of capital projects, as well as some projects which foster a greater sense of community abroad. Recent grants have included grants to organisations providing social, sporting and heritage resources to Irish emigrants. However the overwhelming majority of grants still go to welfare projects, reflecting the scale of the welfare issues that exist and the priority of these issues. As discussed below it is becoming important to define the priorities of the Programme for the future.

3.2 Overview of the Programme

The Programme is managed by a dedicated unit within the Department, the Irish Abroad Unit. Since the Unit was established in 2004, the scale of the Programme has expanded significantly. Total expenditure under the Programme totalled €1.8m in 2006, with a total of 184 groups receiving grants. This represents an almost fourfold increase in funding since 2003, when 73 groups received €3.1m in funding. (See Figure 3.1 below)

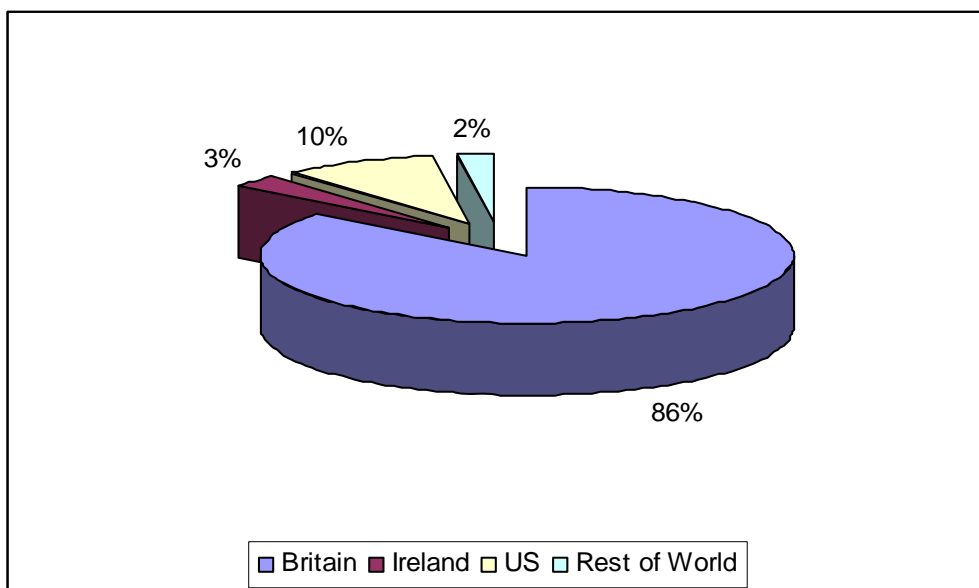
Figure 3.1: Growth in Programme Funding, 2003 - 2006



Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

The geographic spread of Programme spending reflects the location of the largest Irish communities around the world, and the intensity of the social problems which prompted the policy focus on this area. Almost 90 per cent of the Programme spending takes place in Britain. See Figure 3.2 below for the overall spread of spending.

Figure 3.2: Distribution of Programme Funding 2006



Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

Table 3.1 below summarises Programme spending from 2003 to date.

Table 3.1: Summary of Expenditure under the Programme, 2003 - 2006

	2003 (€000)	2004 (€000)	2005 (€000)	2006 (€000)
Britain	2,723	4,334	7,093	10,129
US	301	550	763	1,128
Ireland	25	131	313	320
Australia	38	48	45	142
Argentina	-	-	-	42
Canada	-	-	15	25
South Africa	-	-	-	20
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	20
Total	3,087	5,063	8,229	11,826

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

In order to maximise the impact of spending, and in recognition of the primary role of the host governments of Irish migrants in the provision of welfare services, grants are aimed at community and voluntary organisations that help migrants access their rights and entitlements in their host countries.

3.3 The Programme in Britain

The Programme in Britain has operated with the assistance of the “Díon Advisory Committee” and is referred to as the “Díon Fund” (from the Irish word for ‘shelter’). The Díon Committee is the advisory committee to the Government of Ireland on the Irish community in Britain. It was set up in 1984 in response to concerns about the situation of Irish emigrants in Britain. Apart from the Chair and Secretary, who are officials in the Embassy of Ireland in London, the Committee members serve in a voluntary capacity. The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

- to advise and report on emigrant welfare services;
- to make recommendations on the provision of financial assistance towards the employment of professional workers dealing with the welfare needs of Irish people in Britain; and
- to consider and make recommendations on specific questions at the request of the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Díon funding is available to fund the salary and on-going running costs of agencies providing front line services to vulnerable Irish emigrants in Britain.⁶

⁶ While funding is primarily given to Irish welfare agencies providing front line advice services, support may also be provided to non-Irish welfare agencies providing services to significant numbers of Irish clients and to second-line support services.

In addition, Díon funding is also available for capital projects where Irish organisations provide clear evidence of a need for enhanced facilities. Díon funding is also available for cultural or educational projects which help maintain and express the Irish identity in Britain.

Table 3.2 below provides a summary of Díon funding in Britain over the period 2003 – 2006. As the Table highlights, total Díon funding provided to projects has increased significantly in recent years from €2.7 million in 2003 to €10.1 million in 2006, an almost fourfold increase. Full details of the Díon grants in Britain are given in Appendix 2.

Table 3.2: Summary of Project Funding in Britain, 2003 - 2006

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
	€000	%	€000	%	€000	%	€000	%
Welfare / Community Networks	2,458	90	3,851	89	5,670	80	8,388	83
Promotion of Irish Sports	-	-	38	1	138	2	340	3
Second Line	240	9	444	10	957	14	876	9
Heritage and Culture	-	-	-	-	303	4	523	5
Other Costs	25	1	-	-	25	-	1	-
Total	2,723	100	4,334	100	7,093	100	10,129	100

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

3.4 Projects Funded in Britain

Two types of organisations are funded in Britain. The largest proportion of the funding is granted to *frontline* organisations that work with Irish emigrants. These organisations typically deal with the welfare needs of the more vulnerable Irish emigrants. Two *second line* umbrella organisations are also funded to provide services and support to the frontline organisations.

3.4.1 Frontline Organisations in Britain

Full details of the organisations funded in Britain are given in the Table in Appendix 2. The range of projects funded is summarised in Table 3.2 above.

The vast majority of the funding under this Programme goes to organisations that address the welfare needs of certain vulnerable Irish emigrants in Britain. These organisations concentrate on acting as a liaison between vulnerable Irish emigrants and mainstream social services in Britain. In addition they address certain needs, such as the isolation experienced by some older Irish emigrants that can best be addressed by an “Irish” organisation rather than the mainstream welfare services in Britain. The work of individual organisations is varied, and responds to local needs. A flavour of their work can be gained from the Case Studies in Appendix One, which are summarised below.

A number of the projects have a broader focus to strengthen Irish communities in Britain. There is a strong welfare element to the work of these Irish clubs and organisations. In recent years, a small part of the total funding has gone to sporting organisations such as the GAA, and to heritage and culture projects such as the five Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann branches in Britain. The aim here is to further build and strengthen Irish communities and to improve the welfare of Irish communities.

As part of this review the consultants selected five grant recipients in Britain, reviewed the information held by the Department on these recipients and, in several cases, visited the projects in question. The result of this work is a set of five “case studies” of typical grant recipients in Britain. These case studies are attached to this report as Appendices. The organisations in question were:

- Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre, London
- Southwark Irish Pensioners’ Project, London
- Irish Community Care, Manchester
- The Irish Diaspora Foundation, Manchester
- The Irish Welfare and Information Centre, Birmingham

The **Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre** is one of the larger grant recipients. It has received funding since 2003, and received a grant of €263,390 in 2006. It has received funding contributing towards the staffing costs of an Advice Worker, an Administrator, a Disability Worker and an Outreach Worker, as well as funding towards refurbishment works in the project’s premises and small cultural/educational projects. The project provides advice, advocacy and support to the Irish community in the locality on areas including housing, benefits, national insurance and health. The project includes a drop-in service. It also includes a survivors’ outreach service that provides advice and assistance to victims of institutional abuse in Ireland in the areas of counselling, tracing, legal services, welfare advice and financial awards. There is a specialist disability service to assist clients in the areas of home adaptations, free travel and welfare benefits. In 2005, the project expanded to include an outreach worker to help isolated Irish emigrants to become more socially integrated. The project provided services to 632 Irish clients in 2004.

The **Southwark Irish Pensioners’** project is a good example of a mid-sized project funded by the Programme. The project has been funded since 2003 and received a grant of €195,900 in 2006. This project targets Irish over 55s and pensioners living in and around Southwark. Among its activities are:

- A lunch and drop-in service for pensioners four days weekly;
- Support and assistance to Irish pensioners in areas including bereavement, health problems, isolation, accessing welfare benefits and hospital discharges;

- Support to pensioners in moving to supported and sheltered housing;
- A befriending service where volunteers befriend a client and relay issues facing the client to the project's Community Team; and
- A team of volunteer hospital visitors, backed by the centre's professional workers, who visit clients in the four major hospitals in Southwark and in neighbouring boroughs.

The project had a total of 447 clients in 2004.

Irish Community Care in Manchester received a grant of €152,428 in 2006, and has received grants every year since 2003. This grant was used to support the employment of 9 full or part time workers. This project provides an advice and information service at two drop-in centres located to the north and south of Manchester. Clients are assisted with issues including: welfare benefits; returning to Ireland; housing; health; alcohol related problems and Traveller issues. The project has a Survivors of Abuse Project, a Men's Project, a Youth Project, and an Irish Travellers project. The project organises a range of social activities including music, dancing, arts and crafts at five different venues weekly.

The **Irish Diaspora Foundation**, which received its first grant of €7,875 in 2005 and a further €70,423 in 2006, is representative of a relatively new type of project supported by the Programme. This project aims to assist the social and heritage activities of Irish emigrants and to build and strengthen links between the Irish emigrant community in Manchester and Ireland. The eventual aim of the project is to ensure that the heritage of Ireland including music, dance, sport, cuisine is maintained for second and third generation Irish and also non-Irish. The project is based in an existing, well established, Irish Club in Manchester. The funding has been used to part-fund a full-time cultural and educational development officer and a part-time GAA project consultant who supports GAA teams in local communities and universities.

Another project funded is the **Irish Welfare and Information Centre (IWIC) in Birmingham**. The IWIC uses the funding to contribute towards the staffing costs of a Welfare Worker, an Outreach Worker, an Administration Assistant and two Community Links Workers. The project provides a support service for Irish men and women with long-term alcohol/drug/solvent dependencies or who have become depressed. Other services provided include a drop-in for the homeless; a Primary Care project to allow the marginalised to access healthcare; a weekly social club and an advice/information service to the entire community. The project had some 3,500 clients in 2004.

3.4.2 Second line Organisations

Approximately ten per cent of the funding in Britain goes to second line organisations that track the host government's policies on ethnic minorities and provide services to the frontline community and voluntary organisations. The largest of these, **The Federation of Irish Societies**, was granted €26,176 in 2006, equivalent to 7 per cent of total grants to organisations in Britain. This grant forms the bulk of its funding. A second organisation, the **Birmingham Irish Community Forum**, was granted €150,000 in 2006. As part of this review, a visit was made to the Federation of Irish Societies.

The Federation is a voluntary association of 115 Irish groups and societies around Britain which assists its member organisations to access local authority funding. It receives some of its funding from commercial sponsorship. In addition, the British Department of Health funds a health education and awareness programme operated by the Federation. The grant from the Programme allows the Federation to maintain a full time staff of seventeen. These staff members carry out the Federation's work, which falls into two main areas; capacity building for member organisations; and representation and networking.

As a representative body, the Federation aims to represent the Irish community at all levels of government and policy making in Britain. A major long term project is a campaign to have the Irish community recognised a distinct ethnic group for the purpose of equality legislation. The Federation also works with a wide variety of other groups ranging from the British Irish Inter Parliamentary Body to the UK Office for National Statistics and to a range of local and regional administrations.

The largest portion of the Federation's resources is devoted to capacity building amongst its member organisations. This ranges from networking events and conferences which bring member organisations from a particular area together to share experiences, to training for the management committees of member organisations, to intensive advice and support given over significant periods of time to organisations that are facing difficulties. Individual development workers, who are based in London, Manchester and Birmingham, work for extended periods of time with Irish social, cultural and welfare organisations that are facing difficulties. The Department supports this activity as being worthwhile in itself, and also as increasing the efficiency with which these front line groups can use Programme funding.

The number, and geographic spread, of voluntary organisations supported in Britain create a need for the services provided by the Federation. It would not be practical for the Department to provide the necessary support to the first line organisations directly.

This approach, of addressing social needs by funding both first and second line organisations is also used successfully in Ireland. For example, the 2000 White Paper on the Community and Voluntary Sector⁷ instituted a grant scheme that provides funding to Federations or Networks of voluntary bodies. This acknowledged the key role such second line bodies can play in providing services to front line Community and Voluntary organisations.

3.5 The Programme in Other Countries

The Programme also provides funding to organisations working with Irish emigrants in other countries including the USA, Australia and in recent years Canada, Argentina, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Complimenting the funds provided by the Departments of Social and Family Affairs; Environment and Local Government and Education and Science, the programme provides limited funding to organisations in Ireland for specific services to prospective or returning emigrants.

3.5.1 Projects Funded in the USA

The USA is home to the largest number of Irish emigrants outside of Britain. This is reflected in the share of total Programme funding that goes to projects in the USA. In 2006, eighteen projects received funding totalling €1.1m. This represented 82 per cent of Programme spending outside Britain. This level of spending was an almost four fold increase on the €300,927 spent on projects in the USA in 2003. Table 3.3 below sets out a summary of statistics on the Programme in the USA. Full details of the grants are set out in Appendix 3.

Table 3.3: Summary of Project Funding in the USA, 2003 - 2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Smallest Project Grant	€1,780	€1,239	€820	€787
Largest Project Grant	€6,749	€8,441	€106,575	€127,281
Funding to all Projects	€300,927	€549,946	€762,625	€1,128,060
No. of Projects Funded	11	15	15	19

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

Although emigration from Ireland to the USA has slowed in recent years there are still a significant number of Irish people who want to live and work in the USA.

⁷ White Paper on a framework for supporting voluntary activity and for developing the relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary sector. 13th September 2000.

Welfare assistance at the Federal or State level does not include any provision to assist immigrants with their integration into American society. In response to the arrival of large numbers of undocumented Irish immigrants during the 1980s, the Department of Foreign Affairs provided funding for immigrant services from 1989. In addition to the recently arrived, there are a significant number of vulnerable, older, Irish emigrants who have specific social and material needs that are not met from US sources. In general, the social safety net available from public sources is much less developed than in Europe. The Programme in the US therefore aims to fill some of these gaps by funding voluntary welfare organisations.

Programme funding is concentrated on “Immigration Centres” that provide services to immigrants. One or more centres are funded in each of: New York, Chicago, Washington DC, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco and San Diego, and an Irish Immigration Support Group in Seattle. The types of services provided include; advice on residency issues; health treatment advice; education; training; support in sourcing appropriate housing; and, care and support for older emigrants. An example of the type of services provided is given in Appendix Four, which describes the Aisling Centre. The services provided by these centres are clearly additional to any provision available from public sources in the USA.

Living and working in the USA has become significantly more difficult for a number of these emigrants in recent years, in particular the undocumented⁸ Irish, as a consequence of the increased level of domestic security in the USA since the events of September 2001. A particular problem is that it is no longer possible for an undocumented Irish immigrant to visit Ireland and return to the USA. In addition, undocumented immigrants have only very limited access to any publicly funded services in the USA.

In addition to funding a number of centres that provide services to immigrants, the Programme funds a network or umbrella body for these centres. The “Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres” received a grant of €39,330 in 2006. This covers the cost of a part time executive director who acts as a co-ordinator. In 2006 the Coalition received a further grant of €29,474 to run a conference for its member organisations.

The Programme also grant aids an organisation that aims to contribute to the broadly based efforts to reform the USA’s immigration laws. In 2006 the “Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform” received funding of €69,882, from the Programme. The Programme also gave its first grants to sporting and heritage projects in the USA in 2006. The GAA North American Youth Development Programme received a grant of €75,000 for targeted coaching of second and

⁸ There is no precise figure for the number of undocumented Irish people in the United States. Estimates vary very considerably, with the highest estimate of 50,000 given by some commentators including the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres. Other observers, including the US authorities, give much lower estimates. While the informal situation of the undocumented makes it impossible to obtain a precise figure, a working figure of 25,000 is widely considered to be a reasonable estimate.

subsequent generation Irish Americans and Irish Canadians. The Irish Korean War memorial Committee received a once-off grant of €7,899.

3.5.2 Projects Funded in Other Countries

In **Australia**, the Irish Welfare Bureaus in Sydney, Melbourne and Wollongong have received grants under the Programme. These organisations address specific social needs of the Irish immigrant community in Australia. These bureaus do not aim to replace or supplement the public welfare provision available in Australia. They fill a need by directing members of the Irish community to the appropriate public services. Their role is to perform outreach to the Irish community and to provide a culturally sensitive interface between the Irish community and the public welfare system. The centre in Wollongong, for instance, is engaged in providing community care to older Irish people who travelled to Australia in the 1950s to work in the mines and factories in an area which has since experienced significant economic decline. See Table 3.4 for details of grant funding to Australia under the Programme.

Table 3.4: Project Funding in Australia, 2003 - 2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006
	€	€	€	€
Australian Irish Welfare Bureau, Sydney	13,299	16,800	-	88,103 ⁹
Australian Irish Welfare Bureau, Melbourne	22,637	28,300	40,816	43,574
Australian Irish Welfare Bureau, Wollongong	2,547	2,900	4,396	8,954
Melbourne Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann	-	-	-	1,194
Total	38,483	48,000	45,212	141,825

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

⁹ The grants paid to the Australian Irish Welfare Bureau, Sydney in 2006 comprised €40,350 for 2005 and €47,753 for 2006

Since 2005, a limited number of grants have been given in areas with smaller, but long established, Irish emigrant communities. Organisations in **Argentina, Canada, South Africa and Zimbabwe** have received grants. Details of these grants are set out in Table 3.5 below.

Table 3.5: Project Funding in Other Countries

	2005 €	2006 €
Argentina		
Southern Cross	-	12,000
Fahy Club	-	15,000
Federation of Irish-Argentine Associations	-	15,000
Canada		
Emerald Isle Seniors Club, Toronto	14,599	13,286
Irish Senior Citizens' Centre, Ottawa	-	11,626
South Africa		
Cape Town Irish Association	-	10,000
Durban Irish Society	-	10,000
Zimbabwe		
Bulawayo Irish Association	-	5,000
Mashonaland Irish Association	-	15,000
Total	14,599	106,912

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

Two Irish senior citizens' associations are funded in Canada. The three projects funded in Argentina were a Spanish-language newspaper owned and managed by the Irish Argentine community which builds and sustains links with the Irish community in Argentina; the Irish Fahy Club in Buenos Aires which received a grant to update its facilities, and the Federation of Irish-Argentine Associations which received a grant to support the post of an Executive Secretary within the Association. Small grants were given to Irish community groups in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

3.5.3 Projects Funded in Ireland

In addition to funding organisations abroad that work with Irish emigrants, limited funding is also given to organisations in Ireland. The bulk of this funding goes to the provision of advice to those intending to emigrate, and to services for returning emigrants. In 2006 €320,504 was allocated to eight bodies in Ireland. Projects funded included the Emigrant Advice programme discussed in Section 2.6.1 above and the Safe Home programme discussed in Section 2.6.2 above. The other major recipient is a voluntary body, ÉAN - The Emigrant Advice Network. Full details of these grants are set out in Table 3.6 below:

Table 3.6: Project Funding in Ireland, 2003 - 2006

	2003 €	2004 €	2005 €	2006 €
ÉAN - The Emigrant Advice Network	-	40,000	120,000	100,000
Emigrant Advice	-	35,488	73,000	100,000
Safe Home	-	25,000	60,000	62,000
Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas (Maynooth office)	25,000	30,000	60,000	45,000
Europeans Throughout the World	-	581	395	1,504
Irish Emigrant (website)	-	-	-	5,000
Newshound (website)	-	-	-	5,000
Men Who Built Britain Exhibition	-	-	-	2,000
Total	25,000	131,069	313,395	320,504

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

3.6 Conclusion

As was described in Section 2 above, the Programme directly addresses many of the strategic objectives of the Department with respect to Irish emigrants. The description in this Section indicates that the initial focus of the Programme has been on the urgent welfare needs of many Irish emigrants around the world. However, some of the recent grant allocation decisions have developed the social, sporting and heritage aspects of the Programme.

This move into social, sporting and heritage activities is compatible with the objectives of the Programme and the strategy of the Department.

The introduction of these activities will raise new, and possibly more complex, issues in project selection. In particular, there will be a greater need to ensure the additionality of the funds allocated to these activities. Where a project is aimed at those welfare needs of vulnerable and excluded Irish people that are not being met by the welfare provision system in their host country, there is little risk that the service would be provided in the absence of Irish government funding. The target groups for social, sporting and heritage activities are not necessarily socially or economically excluded in their host countries. In order to use the available funds in an efficient way care will have to be taken not to fund activities that would take place in the absence of Irish government funding. For example, certain activities might otherwise be paid for by fundraising amongst the Irish emigrant community, or simply through admission charges.

4. Relevance, Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Programme

4.1 Introduction

The work on the initial need for the programme, described in Section 2 above, is updated briefly in Section 4.2 below. The relevant Input measures for the Programme are identified and quantified in Section 4.3 below. Section 4.4 identifies and quantifies the information available on the Outputs of the programme. In the light of this Output information and the other work done, Section 4.5 describes the Impacts of the Programme and the extent to which it has achieved its objectives. Section 4.6 identifies and evaluates some alternative approaches to the design of the Programme, in order to assess whether the overall design of the Programme could be improved. Section 4.7 then concludes on the continued relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme and identifies areas for improvements in, or refinements to, the programme.

4.2 Update on Needs

Since the Walter et al study was published in 2002, the results of the 2001 Census of Population for Britain have been made available. According to this Census there were approximately 750,000 Irish born persons in Britain in that year. This compares with approximately 840,000 Irish born people living in Britain in 1999. The 1999 estimate was presented in a study of Irish emigration prepared for the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants (IECE) and the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO)¹⁰.

Since 2002, the CSO have also published revised and updated annual estimates of emigration flows from Ireland. These are set out in Table 4.1 below. As this Table shows, approximately 26,200 persons emigrated from Ireland in 2001. The corresponding figure for 2006 was 17,000. According to the updated CSO estimates, one in four Irish emigrants chose Britain as their destination in 2006, compared to 65 per cent in 1991. The USA was the destination of approximately 8.2 per cent of Irish emigrants in the same year. The trend whereby increasing proportions of Irish emigrants are locating to the Rest of Europe and the Rest of the World was continued up to and including 2006. In 2006, the Rest of the EU was home to 23 per cent of all Irish emigrants, the corresponding figure for the Rest of the World was 43 per cent.

¹⁰ “Emigration and services for Irish emigrants: Towards a new strategic plan” 1999 Brian Harvey

Table 4.1: Estimated Emigration by Country of Destination, 2001-2006

	UK (000)	EU15/25 (000)	USA (000)	Rest of World (000)	Total (000)
2001	7.8	5.6	3.4	9.5	26.2
2002	7.4	4.8	4.8	8.5	25.6
2003	5.9	4.6	1.9	8.3	20.7
2004	4.9	3.4	2.8	7.4	18.5
2005	4.1	3.4	1.7	7.4	16.6
2006	4.4	3.9	1.4	7.3	17.0

Source: CSO

While recently published census results for Britain have documented a reduction in the number of Irish born citizens in Britain, and revised CSO emigration estimates confirm a falling off in the number of emigrants from Ireland annually, there remains a very sizable Irish emigrant population abroad. Moreover, some of the emigrants who left Ireland in the 1950s are now reaching retirement age without adequate resources to support themselves, while among the approximately 17,000 new generation emigrants who leave Ireland annually, a small number are unprepared, both financially and emotionally, for the conditions awaiting them abroad.

Although the history of Irish emigration is overall one of success, and of Irish people playing a valuable role in their adopted homes, a significant minority of emigrants face serious welfare issues. As documented in the Walter et al study, the conditions of a small, but significant minority of Irish emigrants abroad include poor health particularly among the elderly, homelessness or poor housing conditions, substance misuse problems, isolation, poverty and, for many newer generation emigrants, a lack of citizen rights. Based on these conditions it is recognised that many Irish abroad have on-going needs. Some needs are material and take the form of support in accessing resources to which they are entitled which will help relieve problems such as homelessness, poverty and isolation; while others relate to recognition of the difficulties involved with living without rights of legal residence and also being separated from family and culture in Ireland. This update of the work of Walter et al for data that has subsequently become available indicates that the problem has persisted, and remained broadly similar in scope. In particular, the latest UK census data and Irish CSO data on migration confirms that the significant Irish population in the UK, whose living conditions were described by Walter et al, remains largely in place.

This conclusion is borne out by the Department's regular contact with the grant recipients under the programme. These observations were confirmed during the visits by Goodbody Economic Consultants to grant aided projects and interviews with stakeholders and knowledgeable commentators.

4.3 Programme Inputs

The inputs into the Programme are Irish Government Grants, the personnel of the Department, the volunteer time of the Díon Advisory committee and the members of the organisations funded. The total commitment of Department personnel to the Programme amounts to approximately 7 full-time equivalent staff. The basis for this estimate is set out in Table 4.2 below:

Table 4.2: Department Personnel Working on Programme

	Staff	Programme work %	Full Time Equivalent
Irish Abroad Unit	4.5	85	3.8
Irish Embassy - London			
Chair of Díon Committee – 1 st Secretary	1	80	0.8
Secretary of Díon Committee – 3 rd Secretary ¹¹	1	50	0.5
Administrator Díon Committee – S.O.	1	90	0.9
Other Locations: United States, Australia, Argentina, Canada, South Africa, Zimbabwe.			1.0
Total			7.0

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs and Goodbody Economic Consultants

The programme outside Britain is supported by the staff of the relevant diplomatic missions. An average of approximately four weeks work is devoted to the Programme at each location. In addition to the Department personnel working on the Programme the volunteers who make up the Díon Advisory Committee play a crucial, and labour intensive, role in the selection and monitoring of projects in Britain. This role is described in more detail in Sections 5 and 6 below. The six volunteer members of the Díon Advisory Committee devote considerable time to their tasks and are essential to the operation of the Programme. In the context of the huge increase in funding, and the number of projects funded, the question of whether it is reasonable to expect this voluntary Advisory Committee to evaluate the large volume of grant applications, must be considered.

The total spending on grants under the Programme is described in some detail in Section 3 above. This spending has been growing quickly over the period from 2003 to 2006 and has reached a significant size. The number of areas where grants are given has also increased significantly. For convenience the summary table from Section 3 is reproduced below.

¹¹ The Secretary of the Díon Advisory Committee has significant non-Díon duties in the London embassy. The Chairman is responsible for all community relations matters and so cannot work full time on Díon matters.

Table 4.3: Summary of Expenditure under the Programme, 2003 - 2006

	2003 (€000)	2004 (€000)	2005 (€000)	2006 ¹² (€000)
Britain	2,723	4,334	7,093	10,129
US	301	550	763	1,128
Australia	38	48	45	142
Argentina	-	-	-	42
Ireland	25	131	313	32
Canada	-	-	15	25
South Africa	-	-	-	20
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	20
Total	3,087	5,063	8,229	11,826

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

4.4 Programme Outputs

As is described in Sections 5 and 6 below, the monitoring and evaluation systems currently in place for the Programme gather a great deal of information on each project that receives grant aid, and allow high quality control and monitoring of the appropriateness of decisions to make grants. However the information provided by grant recipients is not systematically gathered and collated in a way that allows easy measurement of overall Programme outputs. As the Programme continues to expand the introduction of systematic gathering and collation of such information will become more important.

However, for the purposes of this Review the Department made considerable ad hoc efforts to compile information on Programme outputs. Details were compiled on the number of voluntary organisations receiving financial support and on the number of posts funded in those organisations.

The number of organisations seeking and receiving grant aid has grown enormously over the period 2003 to 2006. This is summarised in Table 4.4 and Figure 4.1 below.

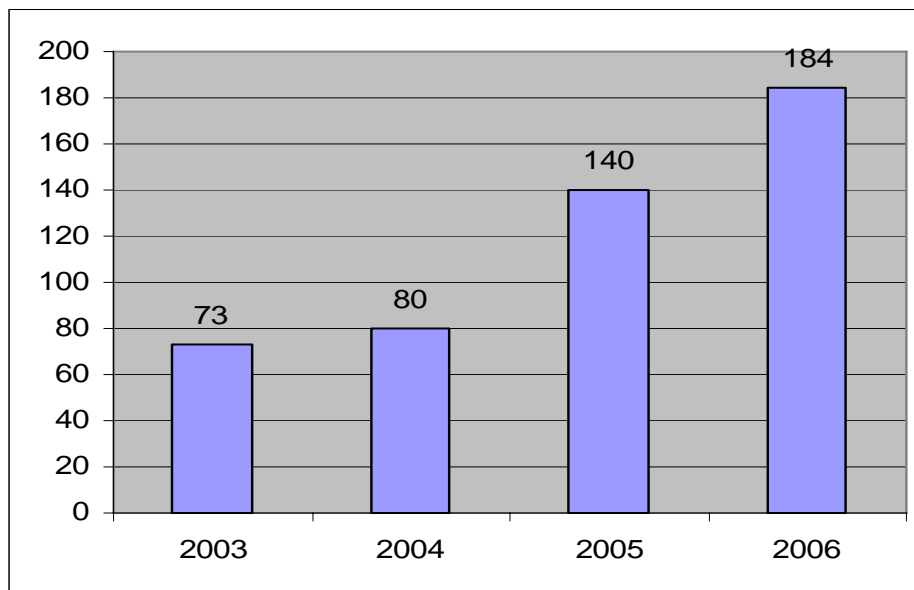
¹² 2006 figures are provisional outturn at 13th February 2007.

Table 4.4: Organisations Supported under the Programme, 2003 - 2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Britain	58	58	118	145
US	11	15	15	18
Ireland	1	4	4	8
Australia	3	3	3	4
Argentina	-	-	-	3
Canada	-	-	1	2
South Africa	-	-	-	2
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	2
Total	73	80	140	184

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

Figure 4.1: Growth in Number of Organisations Funded



Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

The principal use of grants has been to fund posts in the recipient organisations. The typical grant recipient is an established voluntary organisation that has grown out of the Irish community and addresses the welfare needs of the more vulnerable members of the community. Funding from the Programme allows such organisations to employ professional welfare workers. As described in Section 3.4 and 3.5 above, the welfare organisations funded under the Programme do not generally provide services themselves, the professional welfare workers that they employ facilitate members of the Irish community in obtaining their rights under the welfare systems of their host

countries. A single post funded under this Programme will have a significant positive effect on the lives of many Irish people. For example the Haringey Advice and Support Services described in Case Study One employed four workers in 2005 with its Programme funding (an advice worker, a disabilities worker, an outreach worker and an administrative worker). During 2005, these staff were able to help 519 individuals with issues including welfare benefits, housing, health, finance and passport services. This organisation estimates that it secured benefit entitlements worth €1.1m for its clients during 2005.

The grants in Britain are largely linked to posts in the recipient organisations. Over the period from 2003 to 2006 the number of such posts has more than doubled. Posts supported in Britain are summarised in Table 4.5 below.

Table 4.5: Posts Supported under the Emigrant Support Programme, 2003 - 2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Britain	102	123	174	218

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

4.5 Programme Impact and Achievement of Objectives

4.5.1 Types of Impact

The impact of this Programme is felt by those who benefit from the activities of the voluntary organisations financed by the grants. For the purposes of measurement these impacts can be split into three types:

- Welfare benefits enjoyed by vulnerable Irish emigrants. In most cases this occurs when funded organisations help an Irish emigrant to access their social welfare rights as a resident of their host country.
- The benefits enjoyed by Irish emigrants when they take part in social, cultural and sporting activities organised by the bodies funded under the Programme. These activities are geared to the Irish community and would not be promoted by either commercial or public organisations in the host countries.
- In a broader sense, the activities funded by these grants builds links between Ireland and Irish emigrant communities, to the mutual benefit of both the State and the emigrant communities. In addition, the heritage and sporting activities have the potential to raise and improve the profile of Ireland, and the Irish emigrants, in the host countries.

4.5.2 Measuring Impacts

For the purposes of this review, these impacts have been measured as follows:

- A number of the larger recipient organisations gather information on the outputs and impact of their activities and report this information to the Department. The Department's files of grant applications and correspondence for these organisations were reviewed. This information and the visits to representative organisations by the consultants were the basis of the five case studies appended to this Report.
- As described in Section 3 above, the Programme funds network organisations in Britain and the USA (The Federation of Irish Societies in Britain, and the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres in the US). These organisations are familiar with the work of all of the funded organisations. As part of this Review, the consultants met with representatives of these bodies and obtained their views on the impact of the work of the funded organisations.
- The members of the Díon Advisory Committee in Britain are familiar with the work of all of the funded organisations in Britain, and with issues affecting the Irish community in Britain. The consultants met with the members of the Díon Advisory Committee and obtained their views on the impact of the work of the funded organisations.
- The staff of the Irish Abroad Unit and of the Irish Embassy in London maintains regular links with the funded organisations and with the Irish Community in Britain. The staff of the Irish Abroad Unit and diplomatic officers serving abroad are also in touch with the funded organisations and Irish communities in other jurisdictions. The consultants also sought the views of these Department staff on the impact of the work of the funded organisations.
- The consultants sought the views of a number of independent commentators familiar with the work of the funded organisations and with Irish Communities around the world.

4.5.3 Assessment of Impact and Achievement of Objectives

The assessment of Goodbody Economic Consultants of the impact of the funded organisations is as follows:

- An important impetus for the Programme was the widespread social and economic problems suffered by sections of the Irish Community in Britain. The Programme has successfully identified and funded the relevant organisations in the main centres of the Irish community in Britain (London, Manchester and Birmingham) and has greatly improved the welfare of vulnerable Irish immigrants in these areas by providing them with a bridge to the British public welfare system.

The Programme also supplements the British public system by meeting certain needs, such as the social and cultural needs of elderly Irish immigrants that the British public system is not equipped to meet. This work will require ongoing funding at current levels well into the future, as the needs of the individuals in question are ongoing. Limited further expansion of the Programme will be required to fill gaps in provision in these areas of Britain and to extend the benefits of the Programme to the smaller communities outside these areas.

- The Programme in the USA has been able to strengthen a network of existing volunteer based immigrant centres covering the major centres of Irish immigration. An umbrella body has also been established to coordinate and reinforce the work of these centres and take part in the broad based campaign for reform of USA immigration laws. These centres have also identified, and started to address, social problems suffered by Irish immigrants which are not provided for by American public provision. These social issues have been intensified in recent years as the increase in domestic security in the USA has affected undocumented Irish immigrants. Ongoing funding at current levels will be required, as the problems in question will persist while there is a significant Irish emigrant community in the USA.
- The Programme, and the organisations it funds, have identified significant social and heritage needs of the broader Irish community that are not served by mainstream or public provision in Britain. As the image of Ireland improves in Britain, and as a second generation of Irish in Britain matures there is a great demand for facilities for building Irish communities, and for access to Irish heritage and Irish sports. The Programme, and the organisations it funds, have been moving into this area in more recent years. This type of activity, which provides first and second generation Irish with access to Irish heritage, is an important element of the projects funded in Argentina and Southern Africa.
- The Programme has built and strengthened links with Irish communities around the world. Those who benefit from the funded activities, the volunteers and paid staff that run the funded activities, and the community leaders and opinion formers involved in the administration of the programme, all value the link with Ireland created by the Programme. This aspect of the Programme has the potential to be of benefit to Ireland in its relationship with the host countries. The recent move to funding heritage and sporting projects, which are more visible to the non-Irish residents of the host countries, will increase the scale of this impact.

The objectives of the Programme, which flow from the Department Strategy which is described in Section 3 above, are clearly expressed in the Dón Advisory Committee's own Strategic Plan prepared in 2006. This Plan states that the Committee's objectives with respect to the Irish Voluntary Sector in Britain (which are the same as the objective of the Programme a whole for voluntary bodies around the world) are:

- To support equitable access for Irish individuals and organisations to statutory and voluntary services in Britain;
- To support the professional development of the Irish voluntary sector in Britain and to encourage best practice and capacity building;
- To promote the development of responses from the voluntary sector which reflect the diverse needs of the Irish community;
- To promote and monitor effective outcomes for Irish service users;
- To promote the sharing of information and resources for the better delivery of services;
- To support Irish community-based cultural or educational activities where these help maintain and express Irish identity and benefit the Irish community as a whole; and,
- To commission or to support research on the needs of the Irish community in Britain.

To date, impressive progress has been made towards the achievement of these objectives, and there are clear indications that the Programme is on course to fulfil its objectives. To take each objective in turn:

- As described above, enormous progress has been made in creating access for vulnerable Irish people to the statutory and voluntary services they need. The facilitation and advocacy needs identified and filled by the Programme are ongoing so it is clear that this activity must continue.
- The use that the network organisations in Britain and the USA have made of the resources provided by the Programme is contributing considerably to the development of the Irish voluntary sector.
- The diversity of funded projects, and the way that they are devised and run by local volunteers has led to the range of responses needed.
- The important issue of monitoring and evaluation is considered separately in Section 6 below.
- The network organisations funded by the Programme, and the work of the Díon Advisory Committee and the Irish Abroad Unit achieve exactly the type of information sharing required.
- Having dealt with some of the most urgent social and welfare needs facing Irish communities at the outset of the Programme, the first steps are being taken to extend the Programme into heritage and educational projects. This development needs to be undertaken in a planned and focussed way which will compliment and enhance the welfare of our communities overseas.
- The vast bulk of the resources of the Programme have been devoted to addressing urgent social and welfare needs as they allow this aspect of the Programme's objectives to be explored further.

4.6 Alternative Approaches

An element of this Review is to examine the scope for alternative policy or organisational approaches to achieving the objectives of the Programme. This examination was carried out by:

- Identifying any alternative approaches that had been considered during the development of this Programme, or that had emerged subsequently, and assessing these in the light of four years experience in operating the current Programme.
- Identifying and describing any relevant comparator approaches used by other countries and investigating whether these suggested any alternative approaches to those adopted in the Programme as it stands.

The main alternative approaches that were considered during the design of the Programme and subsequently were as follows:

- The Task Force that preceded the establishment of the Programme (see Section 2.3 above) proposed the establishment of an “Irish Abroad Agency”, under the aegis of the Department of Foreign Affairs, to implement policy towards Irish emigrant communities.
- In theory the needs of Irish emigrant communities could be addressed directly by the Department through a significantly expanded consular service.

Both of these approaches were rejected in the design of the Programme as it now exists. Experience since the launch of the Programme has confirmed the correctness of these decisions.

The establishment of separate agencies inevitably involves significant overheads and capital costs. Sometimes this is necessary where an agency such as the Competition Authority, must be completely independent of the central Civil Service. In the case of policy towards Irish emigrants such independence was not necessary as no conflicts of interest with other areas of Government action arise. In fact it has proved advantageous that the body responsible for emigrant communities, the Irish Abroad Unit, is an integral part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Civil Service and is an administrative arm of the Government. The Unit is able to work closely with the consular and diplomatic missions of the Department and has benefited from close association with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In addition it has been able to cooperate easily and effectively with the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Department of Environment and Heritage in the provision of support to returning emigrants and those considering emigration.

The approach adopted in this programme, of providing additional resources to voluntary organisations has been extremely effective and efficient as described above. Achieving the same impact through an expanded consular service

would have been more expensive, and would have taken considerably longer. The approach adopted:

- Tapped into the energy and volunteer work of the Irish Communities around the world.
- Used the detailed knowledge of needs and resources of the Irish Communities around the world.
- Was flexible and adapted to local needs and priorities as it was delivered through a large number of locally based, specialised organisations rather than through a centralised service.
- Availed of the expertise at Irish missions worldwide.

International comparison shows that the location within the Foreign Ministry of a dedicated Unit for citizens abroad is very much in line with practice in other countries. However, other countries with such Units focus predominantly on cultural and language ties as a means to preserve the national identity of their communities abroad. Non English-speaking countries, particularly in Eastern Europe, are very aware of the fact that second and subsequent generations of their emigrants no longer speak the national language. There is concern that loss of language will result in the loss of their national identity. The Irish emigration experience is unique in its nature and scale. It is perhaps understandable, therefore, that our research has not found any country which has developed a programme comparable to that of the Irish Abroad Unit in terms of financial support for the delivery of services, including welfare and community network services, to emigrant communities abroad.

4.7 Conclusion on Relevance, Effectiveness and Efficiency

As part of this Review Goodbody Economic Consultants have updated this initial assessment of needs by reviewing the latest demographic information and gathering the views and experiences of those involved in the projects funded by the programme. All indications are that, as anticipated at the outset of this Programme, significant needs remain among Irish emigrants. This Programme remains the main method available to address these needs.

In the light of the work done for this Review and described above it is clear that:

- The Programme has been launched and expanded, with impressive speed, into a significant Government programme, with a broad geographic and activity scope.
- The Programme has made impressive progress towards its objectives of connecting vulnerable Irish emigrants to the statutory and voluntary services that they need; and, developing and strengthening the Irish voluntary sector and Irish communities abroad.
- The Programme has made its first steps towards addressing cultural and educational needs.

- The original design of the Programme has proven to be efficient and effective, and there is no indication of a need for a change.

Priorities for the future include:

- Continuing current actions in social and welfare provision while needs persist, and filling any remaining gaps in the network of funded organisations;
- Expanding the heritage, social and sporting aspects of the Programme in a planned manner;

The areas of selection, monitoring and evaluation of projects funded under the Programme are considered in Sections 5 and 6 below.

5. Selection Process for the Programme

5.1 Introduction

This Section of the Report documents the review of the selection processes used by the Programme. The selection process for the Programme in Britain is described and assessed in Sections 5.2 and 5.3 below. The selection processes in the other areas where the Programme operates are then described and assessed in Section 5.4. The Section then concludes on the appropriateness of the selection processes in place.

5.2 Selection Process in Britain

The process used to select organisations to receive grants under the Programme in Britain has been refined and improved over the period from 2003 to date. The process followed in 2005 to allocate grants was as follows:

- In February 2005 an advertisement was placed summarising the terms of the Programme (referred to as the Díon Fund for the advertisement) and seeking applications by 10th March 2005. The advertisement appeared in the Irish Post and the Irish World, the local press in cities with a large Irish community and on the website of the Department. The advertisement invited applicants to either contact the secretary of the Díon Advisory Committee to obtain an application form and guidelines for applicants, or to download these documents from the website of the Department.
- Applications forms and the guidelines for applicants were distributed to interested parties.
- A total of 182 applications were received. These were split into four groups. The eight members of the Díon Advisory Committee ¹³ were also split into four teams of two. Each team received one of the groups of applications and supporting documents. In this way each application and its supporting documents was reviewed in full by two members of the Committee.
- The staff of the Embassy in London prepared a summary document containing the key details of all of the applications and distributed this to all of the members of the Committee.

¹³ The Committee is chaired by the First Secretary in the Irish Embassy in London responsible for community relations. The secretary is the Third Secretary (Irish Community) at the Embassy. The other members are: Mr. Michael Forde, Chairman of the Irish World Heritage Centre Manchester; Dr. Breda Gray, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Limerick; Dr. Theresa Joyce, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust; Mr. Jim O'Hara, Vice Chair, Irish Youth Foundation UK; Mr. Seamus McGarry, former chair of the Federation of Irish Societies. A sixth member of the Committee, Ms Catherine Quinn, passed away in April 2007 - RIP. All of the members are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The terms of office of the current committee end in September 2007.

- The full Committee then met over three days to go through all of the applications and select those applications that would be recommended for funding. The Committee was guided in this discussion by its “Strategic Plan” which defines a mission and objectives for the Programme in Britain and sets out criteria to be used in assessing applications. These guidelines are designed to ensure that the grants go to voluntary organisations with a good standard of governance, who provide services to Irish people and whose services do not duplicate those available from public sources in Britain.
- The Committee benefits greatly from the fact that its members are actively involved in the activities of the Irish community in Britain. To avoid any actual or apparent conflicts of interest, the individual members have developed a practice of not taking part in the discussion of applications from organisations with which they are, or were, directly involved. In practice, this only occurs in one or two cases in the funding round.
- The Committee made a set of recommendations for grants in the year. These recommendations were reviewed and agreed by the Ambassador in the London Embassy, the Irish Abroad Unit, the Assistant Secretary responsible for the Consular and Passport Division, and the Secretary-General of the Department.
- Following consideration of the recommendations the Minister approved grants and payments issued to organisations in Britain.
- The recipient organisations were required to return a signed “acknowledgement of receipt” form to the Embassy. By signing this form they also confirmed that the grant monies were to be used for the purposes identified in their application, and that they would provide a progress report and financial statement describing how the grant had been spent by the end of 2006. A template for this progress report and financial statement was provided to the grant recipient.
- These progress reports and financial statements were returned to the Embassy, reviewed and filed with the applications and supporting documents.
- Further funds can become available once this round of applications and decisions is completed. The practice in the past has not been to re-advertise. Instead the extra funds have been allocated to applicants that were unsuccessful in the first rounds of grants, or to organisations who had sought funding after the closing date for the first round of grants. These grant applications are also reviewed by the Díon Advisory Committee and approved for payment in the normal way.

5.3 Assessment of Selection Process

The consultants discussed the selection process for the allocation of grants in Britain with the staff of the Embassy in London who work with the Programme, the staff of the Irish Abroad Unit, the volunteer members of the Díon Advisory Committee, a selection of the recipient organisations and the Federation of Irish Societies. In addition, the consultants reviewed the

documents used in the selection process including the recommendation document prepared by the Díon Advisory Committee, and a selection of the progress reports returned by the successful applicants.

5.3.1 Current Selection Process

The following observations arise on the current selection process:

- The selection process in force is highly effective at ensuring that all grants go to organisations where the money will be used efficiently to further the aims of the programme. All of the grants can be justified on clear objective criteria, and the progress reports allow the outcome of any individual grant decision to be reviewed ex post.
- The Programme in Britain benefits greatly from the work and expertise of the volunteer members of the Díon Advisory Committee. This resource adds to the quality of the selection decisions. It would be extremely difficult for the small staff of the London Embassy to administer what has become a relatively large complex spending programme without this help.
- The Programme in Britain is at an important transitional stage. Until 2005, there were relatively few recipient organisations, and there was a clear and urgent need to direct funds to organisations dealing with welfare needs among the most vulnerable members of the Irish community in Britain. More recently, the funds available have increased a great deal, and the Programme has to deal with many more applicants and grant recipients. The Programme now has an opportunity to broaden the scope of its grants to cover the broader needs of the Irish community and the broader aims of the Programme. In addition, the larger number of applicants and recipients will place greater demands on the selection system.
- The allocation process could be described as “bottom up”. The aim of the process is to select the set of recipients from the pool of applicants that will represent the best value for money for the total funds available to give as grants. Although priorities are discussed and set in a qualitative way, this does not extend to setting a budget for individual areas or types of project.
- The quality of some applications and progress reports is relatively low, reflecting the size and resources of the applicant organisations. The Díon Advisory Committee is able to rely on a high level of personal knowledge of the organisations in the field in making its decisions. Certain aspects of the process are relatively flexible. For example, as described above, a second round of funding can arise from a review of applications for good projects, and in some cases grant funds have been disbursed before the recipient signed a statement stating that they will abide by the grant conditions. There is no evidence that this has affected the quality of the selection decisions while the scheme remained relatively small, and focussed on welfare needs. However, as

the Programme becomes larger and more diverse it will be necessary to rely more on formal information gathering and decision making.

- The terms of the members of the Díon Advisory Committee come to an end in September 2007. The Committee's Strategy document has only had limited revisions made in recent years.

5.3.2 Recommendations for the future

These observations give rise to the following conclusions and recommendations for the future:

- The current bottom up approach was completely appropriate when the fund was relatively small, and there was a need to prioritise projects that addressed urgent welfare needs. In addition this approach was very useful in the early stage of the programme when the scope and nature of the needs in the Irish community were still being investigated. It was necessary to seek out areas of need and organisations that could address these needs in this way. As the budget for the Programme has grown, and the level of knowledge and experience of the needs to be addressed has increased, the selection process can be amended.
- With the ongoing expansion of the resources available to the Programme it is now possible to expand its range of activities, and address some of the other needs identified in the Task Force Report. This needs to be done in a planned way, setting explicit monetary targets for spending by type of activity.
- The Programme has expanded the range of needs that it seeks to address, as well as pure welfare projects it has made its first moves into heritage and community building projects. Explicit decisions will now be needed as to the relative priority of these different areas.

When the term of appointment of the current Díon Advisory Committee expires in September 2007, it will be timely to review the advisory strategy and refine the selection process in Britain. This revision should include the following:

- The revised strategy document should clarify the role of the Committee in grant allocation and monitoring and describe the operation of the Programme in Britain. The revised document could communicate the procedures that have been adopted on conflicts etc.
- The success of the Programme in Britain depends on a continued high level of commitment from the members of the Díon Advisory Committee who act in a volunteer capacity. The demands on the Committee have increased over recent years, and will continue to increase as the number and diversity of projects funded increases. Some way should be found to recognise this effort, and to ensure that suitable volunteers will continue to be available in the future. This

could be achieved through continued contact between the Minister and the Ambassador and by ensuring that the Members of the Committee are acknowledged in the publicity and press relations activity of the Department.

- Future allocation decisions will have to rely more on the formal application and selection process. For example, more reliance will have to be placed on the past progress reports provided by grant applicants when making allocation decisions. The current focus on ensuring that applicants comply with all of the formal requirements of the application process must be continued and reinforced.
- While the formal application process referred to above will be needed for larger projects, a less onerous procedure could be introduced for very small groups that may apply for small grants below a threshold of the order of €5,000 to €10,000.
- As discussed in Section 3 above, the move to fund social, sporting and heritage activities will raise new issues in the selection of projects. The target groups for such activities are not necessarily socially or economically excluded in their host counties. In order to use the available funds in an efficient way care will have to be taken not to fund activities that would take place in the absence of Irish government funding. For example, certain activities might otherwise be paid for by fundraising amongst the Irish emigrant community, or simply through admission charges.
- In order to address the increased size of the Programme, and the increased diversity of the projects supported, an increased “top-down” element should be introduced into the selection process. Before considering individual applications the Díon Advisory Committee could recommend, and the Department agree, an overall allocation of the funds available, for example between geographic areas and between types of project. This would allow the selection of individual projects to reflect the overall strategy for the Programme. This allocation would be based on the overall budget set by the Department and the mix of projects funded in the previous year. An outline of such an allocation is set out in Figure 5.1 below:

Figure 5.1: Possible Format for Grant Allocations in Britain

	London	Manchester	Total
Welfare Projects				
Older People				
Training				
Counselling				
Advice on housing, social welfare etc.				
.....				
<i>Subtotal</i>				
Community Network Projects				
Irish Clubs				
Events				
Cultural Centres				
....				
<i>Subtotal</i>				
Sports Projects				
.....				
<i>Subtotal</i>				
Second Line Organisations				
...				
<i>Subtotal</i>				
Information Projects				
....				
<i>Subtotal</i>				
Heritage and Culture Projects				
...				
<i>Subtotal</i>				
TOTAL				

The applications could be split into groups corresponding to the sub headings in this top down budget. The current bottom up process could then be used with each group of applications to allocate the budget for each sub-heading.

5.4 Selection Processes in Other Countries

In the United States, groups submit applications to the Embassy in Washington DC or the Consulate nearest them. Annual announcements of the grant scheme are made in the Irish-American press, and applications are solicited from previous applicants. The Consuls in each of New York, Boston, Chicago and San Francisco send recommendations for projects to be funded in their consular areas to the Embassy in Washington. The Washington Embassy selects recommended projects for the Washington consular area and from applications from USA wide bodies. These sets of regional applications are reviewed by the Ambassador, who oversees the budget for the Programme in the US, and selects a consolidated list of recommended applications which is forwarded to the Irish Abroad Unit. The grants are then approved and disbursed through the Department's management system.

The limited number of grants in other areas goes through a similar selection process to that in the United States. Organisations approach the Irish Ambassador or Consul for assistance with a project, and if the Ambassador or Consul is convinced of the merits of a project, a recommendation for a grant is transmitted to the Irish Abroad unit of the Department.

As the Programme is relatively small in these areas, it can rely to a great extent on the knowledge of the diplomatic staff, and there is less need for outside assistance or for a formal process of seeking and assessing applications.

As the Programme grows there may be a need to introduce a more formal system of selection similar to that in place in Britain.

5.5 Conclusion on Selection Process

The following general conclusions arise with respect to the selection processes used in the programme:

- The selection processes have worked well, and the grants made have been directed to organisations that have used them in an effective and efficient way to work towards the objectives of the Programme.
- The selection process had valuable volunteer input from members of the Irish communities in Britain.
- The rapid growth of the Programme means that selection processes that have worked well until now may no longer be appropriate in the future. This is particularly the case in Britain.
- The set of grants made under the Programme was driven in large measure by the range of needs in the applications received. Outside the objectives of the Programme, there was little further priority setting in the allocation of funds by the Department.

A number of recommendations arise from this Review. These are particularly relevant to the Programme in Britain, but should be implemented in the other areas where the Programme operates as a matter of best practice.

- A top down element should be introduced into the allocation process. Before considering individual grant applications a decision should be made in principle about the strategic objectives of the Programme.
- Steps should be taken to recognise and secure the contribution of representatives of the Irish community and other expertise in the recommendation process.
- The current emphasis on formalising the application process must be continued and reinforced, with the possible introduction of service agreements.
- When considering applications for funding for sporting, social or heritage activities particular care must be taken to ensure that these could not take place without Irish government funding.
- The Strategic Plan which describes the aims and approach of the Programme in Britain each year will need to be reviewed and revised in light of changes following this Value for Money and Policy Review.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation of the Programme

6.1 Introduction

This section of the Report first describes and assesses the monitoring and evaluation processes in place in the Programme in Britain. It then summarises the systems in place in the other areas of operation of the Programme. The Section concluded with an assessment of these monitoring and evaluation systems and recommendations for the future.

6.2 Monitoring and Evaluation in Britain

A limited system of monitoring and evaluation of the performance of organisations that receive grants is already in place:

- The staff of the London Embassy who serve as Chairman and Secretary of the Dón Advisory Committee spend a portion of their time travelling around Britain maintaining links with the Irish community, and visiting the organisations that receive funding under the Programme. Although the resources available, in terms of staff time, do not allow for a programme of visits that would cover all of the funded organisations, the Embassy staff has personal contact with a significant proportion of the funded projects. During 2006, over half of the recipient organisations, representing approximately three quarters of grant expenditure, were visited by Embassy staff.
- The members of the Dón Advisory Committee are also familiar with the funded projects through their links to the Irish community in Britain.
- The Federation of Irish Societies maintains close links with the funded projects through its development workers, and communicates regularly with Embassy staff. This communication must, of course, respect the Federation's primary role as a body run by Irish community organisations.
- On a formal basis, organisations receiving grants are required to submit progress reports detailing how they have spent their grant and the results achieved. These progress reports are considered if, as is usually the case, the organisation in question applies for a further grant in the next year.

This level of monitoring and evaluation has been sufficient to date given the relatively small size of the programme. As the Programme continues to grow there will be a need for a more formalised and extensive system of monitoring and evaluation. In particular:

- A systematic programme of ex post evaluation of grant aided organisations should be put in place to ensure that all grant recipients are subject to review by the Department. The level of review could be related to the size and complexity of the project, but all projects should receive some outside scrutiny.
- Performance indicators should be defined and targets should be set at the time that grants are allocated. Performance reports should be reviewed against these targets.
- The information in performance reports should be gathered and collated to allow measurement and reporting of the overall outputs of the programme.

6.3 Monitoring and Evaluation in Other Countries

While the Embassies and Consulates have made sound recommendations for funding on the basis of personal knowledge and oversight of projects, as a matter of good practice, once a formal system of monitoring and evaluation is established for Britain, it should be extended to the other areas of operation of the Programme.

6.4 Conclusion on Monitoring and Evaluation

Considerable expertise and experience in the operation of monitoring and evaluations systems exists in the Department and elsewhere in the public services. A small increase in resources, including an increased use of technology could allow the development of an effective and efficient monitoring system that would meet the current and future needs of the Programme. Currently information on applications and monitoring information is gathered on an ad hoc basis. Where analysis is required as part of the selection process, or where information is being gathered for reporting, Dáil questions etc. it is extracted and compiled on an ad hoc basis. This system has met the needs of the Programme to date, but it creates a large burden on Department staff and will come under increased pressure as the Programme grows. The use of a single database to track all information received from projects would simplify the process. In outline such a system could operate as follows:

- Performance indicators should be defined for each grant aided organisation. The starting point for the definition of these could be suggestions from the organisations themselves. Applicants for grants should indicate performance indicators that they intended to set themselves, and targets that they hope to reach. A list of suggested indicators could be developed by the Department. This would guide the organisations in choosing their performance indicators. Some suggested performance indicators are set out in Table 6.1 below:

Figure 6.1: Possible Performance Indicators for Grant Aided Projects

Type of Project	Suggested Performance Indicators
Welfare	
Obtaining welfare benefits from host county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of clients helped • Number of individual consultations of the service (phone calls, visits etc.) • Value of welfare benefits secured for clients from host country government • Number of beneficiaries, i.e. number of clients plus dependents
Counselling services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of clients helped • Number of individual counselling sessions
Pensioners club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of regular attendees • Number of sessions provided in year • Average attendance
Sport	
Coaching scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of attendees • Number of coaching sessions offered
Club equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of users
Heritage and Culture	
Grants to events/performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of event • Number of performances • Total attendance
Exhibitions/Visitor Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature and extent of exhibits • Estimated number of visits
Publications (Books, DVDs etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of publications • Number of copies distributed • Total audience
Second line organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of front line organisations supported • Membership of organisations supported • Training materials developed • Training sessions delivered

Source: Goodbody Economic Consultants

- Consideration should be given, on a pilot basis, to establishing service level agreements with some of the larger organisations.
- In future, the application should be submitted electronically and be entered onto a database. This database would be a standard computer package with the user interface set up for this Programme. Once this was done the database would automate a great deal of the work in preparing reports and summaries.
- Grant offers will be conditional on accepting grant conditions, including an obligation to make a progress report, and should specify performance indicators, and target values to be included in the performance report. These should normally be based on the indicators and target value suggested in the grant application.
- There should be an ongoing programme of evaluation visits to projects. This should be designed to concentrate on the largest projects, but should ensure that all funded organisations receive outside scrutiny. The Department should aim to visit the largest projects once a year, and smaller projects once every three years.
- Issues arising from the evaluations would be entered on the database to inform future decisions.
- Progress reports from grant recipients, which will be submitted electronically, will be reviewed for the achievement of targets set at the time of grant allocation. Reports generated by the database would simplify this process and also help to measure the overall output of the Programme.

This type of monitoring and evaluation programme would obviously require the investment of some resources in systems and administration.

Monitoring and Evaluation processes for the Programme have been relatively informal to date. However, they have been sufficient to ensure that the Programme has operated well. As the Programme continues to grow there is an urgent need to put a formalised system of monitoring and evaluation, such as the one described above, in place.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

7.1 Introduction

This Section sets out the conclusions and recommendations of this Review. It first draws together the conclusions from the work done during this Review. These conclusions follow the headings used in the Terms of Reference. The recommendations arising for the future operation of the Programme are then set out. These recommendations and management responses to them are summarised in Table 7.1 at the end of this chapter.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 Assessment of Needs

As part of this Review, Goodbody Economic Consultants have updated the initial assessment of needs undertaken for this Programme by reviewing the latest demographic information and gathering the views and experiences of those involved in the projects funded by the Programme. This work is documented in Section 2 above. All indications are that significant needs remain among Irish emigrants. This Programme remains the main method available to address these needs.

7.2.2 Validity of Objectives and Compatibility with Department Strategy

As described in Section 3 above, the Programme is a major part of the Government's effort to address the needs of Irish emigrants. It is designed and operated in a way that is compatible with, and addresses many of the Objectives and Strategies identified in, the Strategy of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

7.2.3 Level and Trend of Outputs

As described in detail in Section 4.3 above, the outputs of the Programme have undergone impressive growth between 2003 and 2007. The Programme has become a complex grant programme of considerable size. Total expenditure has grown from approximately €3m in 2003 to €15.165m in 2007. Projects are grant aided in eight different countries around the world, compared to four in 2003. The total number of projects receiving grant aid has grown from 73 in 2003 to 184 in 2006. This growth has continued since 2006.

7.2.4 Effectiveness and Achievement of Objectives, and Barriers to Evaluation

The Programme has a challenging range of objectives. The work done for this Review has been able to identify an impressive level of progress towards these objectives, as documented in Section 4.4 above. In particular:

- The Programme has made impressive progress towards its objectives of connecting vulnerable Irish emigrants to the statutory and voluntary services that they need and, developing and strengthening the Irish voluntary sector and Irish communities abroad;
- The Programme has made its first steps towards addressing other aspects of Irish heritage.

The monitoring and evaluation systems currently in place for the Programme gather a great deal of information on each project that receives grant aid. When this information is systematically entered onto a database (see 6.4) and collated, it will facilitate measurement of overall Programme outputs addressing the needs of Irish communities abroad.

7.2.5 Costs and Efficiency

As described in Section 4.3 above, the output of the Programme has grown significantly over the years from 2003 to 2006. All of the information available indicates that the Programme outputs, principally the provision of professional staff to voluntary Irish community groups, efficiently contributes to the aims of the programme. Over the period under review the total number of posts, either part time or full time, supported by the Programme increased from 116 to 240.

7.2.6 Justification for Public Funding and Alternative Approaches

The approach adopted in this programme, of providing additional resources to voluntary organisations has been extremely effective and efficient as described above. Achieving the same impact through any of the alternative approaches available, such as an expanded consular service, or the formation of a dedicated Agency, would have been significantly less efficient. The approach adopted, of providing resources to voluntary bodies:

- Tapped into the energy and volunteer work of the Irish Communities around the world.
- Used the detailed knowledge of needs and resources of the Irish Communities around the world.
- Was flexible and adapted to local needs and priorities as it was delivered through a large number of locally based, specialised organisations rather than through a centralised service.

7.2.7 Other Aspects of Programme Design

The selection processes in place for the period under review have worked well. The grants made have been directed to organisations that have used them in an effective and efficient way to work towards the objectives of the Programme. However, the rapid growth of the Programme means that selection processes

that have worked well until now may need revision for the future. In particular:

- Strategic priorities (top down) should be increasingly evident in the allocation process. This will facilitate and reinforce the current emphasis on formalising the application process.

7.2.8 Other Irish Statutory Support

As is described in Section 2.6 above, the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Department of Environment & Local Government are involved in the projects to address the needs of those considering emigration and of returning emigrants. The projects are an integral part of the overall Government strategy towards emigrants defined by the Task Force on emigration. It is important that the Department of Foreign Affairs continues to work with these other departments in an integrated and co-operative way, thereby avoiding any duplication of service.

7.3 Recommendations

Based on the results of this Review a number of recommendations for the future design and operation of this Programme arise. These are presented below, split between recommendations on the design of the programme, and recommendations to improve the accountability and administration of the Programme.

7.3.1 Design of the Programme

This Review of the current design and performance of the Programme leads to certain recommendations for refinements to the design and operation of the Programme.

As proposed in 6.4, contracting specific services from second line, and some of the larger front line, organisations should be considered.

Applicants for grants should be required to indicate performance indicators and the targets that they expect to reach. For example, a welfare group could set a number of individuals that it will help over the course of a year, or a number of advice sessions that it will deliver. A heritage organisation could set itself a target of a number of attendees at classes or events. Grant offers should be conditional on inter alia reporting performance indicators to the Department.

In order to allow evaluation of individual projects that receive grant aid, and of the Programme as a whole, the performance indicators reported by grant recipients should be reviewed and collated into overall measures of Programme performance.

With respect to the choice of partners and the allocation of resources to different types of project, so far the vast bulk of the resources of the Programme have been devoted to addressing urgent social and welfare needs. At this stage, it is possible to expand the heritage, social and sporting aspects of the programme. If funding allows, it will also be possible to implement a research aspect to the Programme

7.3.2 Accountability and Administration of the Programme

A top down element should be introduced in to the allocation process. Before considering individual grant applications a decision should be made in principle as to the geographic spread of grant funds, and the allocation of grant by type of project. The current emphasis on formalising the application process must be continued and reinforced. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the information contained in the application form, and the past performance of the grant applicant. Social, sporting and heritage projects will become a larger part of the Programme. Particular care will be needed to ensure that funding is concentrated on those projects that would not otherwise take place. The target groups for these projects will often be in a position to fully or partly fund these activities themselves.

Monitoring and Evaluation processes for the Programme have been relatively informal to date. As the Programme continues to grow there is an urgent need to put in a formalised system of monitoring and evaluation. This will require more resources to be devoted to the administration of the Programme. The system should include the following elements:

- Applicants for grants should indicate performance indicators that they intended to set themselves, and targets that they hope to reach.
- Conditional grant offers should be made, and should specify performance indicators, and target values, to be included in the performance report. (Some suggested performance indicators are set out in Table 6.1)
- During the course of the year a series of visits to projects should be carried out.
- Progress reports should be reviewed for the achievement of targets set at the time of grant allocation.
- Information in progress reports should be collated to calculate measures of the overall output of the Programme.
- As outlined in Section 6 above an increased use of information technology could allow such an improved monitoring and evaluation system to be put in place in an efficient manner.

Table 7.1: Summary of Recommendations and Management Responses

No.	Recommendation	Report Reference	Management Response
1.	The Department should consider contracting specific services from second line organisations, and some of the larger front line organisations.	Section 6.4.	Irish Abroad Unit (the Unit) has already had discussions with a number of organisations with a view to establishing service agreements
2.	Applicants for grants should be required to indicate performance indicators and the targets that they expect to reach.	Section 6.4	The Unit is proposing to move towards electronically generated applications for the 2008 grant round. The electronic application will require that performance indicators on the lines recommended are specified.
3.	The performance indicators reported by grant recipients should be reviewed and collated into overall measures of Programme performance.	Section 6.4	This will be facilitated by the development of a data base, and monitored through contact with, and visits to, the recipient organisations.
4.	Further expansion of the heritage, social and sporting aspects of the programme is now possible, and should be undertaken in line with the overall objectives of the programme.	Section 4.7	Heritage, sport and community outreach account for 12.5% of this year's grant allocations to organisations in Britain. The commitment in the Programme for Government to increase funding for Emigrant Services to €34 million over the term of Government will greatly enhance the capacity to further expand funding in this area.
5.	A research aspect to the Programme should be	Section 4.7	The Unit has had a series of discussions

No.	Recommendation	Report Reference	Management Response
	introduced, as funding allows.		with universities, and this engagement will continue in the coming months.
6.	A top down element should be introduced into the allocation process.	Section 5.3.2	Policy developments within the Unit will progressively result in the targeting of specific areas and projects for funding.
7.	Steps should be taken to recognise and secure the contribution of representatives of the Irish community in the recommendation process for grant applications.	Section 5.3.2	The Programme has benefited greatly from the advice and contribution of community representatives, particularly the D'ion Committee. The Unit is currently exploring the possibility of restructuring the advisory network, and is actively considering a more representative, regional basis for the future.
8.	The current emphasis on formalising the application process must be continued and reinforced. A less onerous procedure could be introduced for small grants, below a threshold of the order of €5,000 to €10,000.	Section 5.3.2	The Unit is reviewing its operational systems to make special arrangements to ensure that smaller welfare and elderly organisations will not, in any way, be inconvenienced or disadvantaged by a new application process. The objective is to keep the application process for those receiving relatively modest grants as uncomplicated and fair as possible.
9.	As social, sporting and cultural projects grow in importance in the Programme, care will be needed to ensure that funding is concentrated on those projects that would not otherwise take place.	Section 3.6, Section 5.3.2	This is a high priority in the Unit. We have already identified areas of possible duplication and are examining corrective measures to guard against this possibility.

No.	Recommendation	Report Reference	Management Response
10.	<p>As the Programme continues to grow there is an urgent need to put in place a formalised system of monitoring and evaluation. The system should include the following elements (some of these are described above as recommendations in their own right):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants for grants should indicate performance indicators that they intended to set themselves, and targets that they hope to reach. • Conditional grant offers should be made, and should specify performance indicators, and target values, to be included in the performance report. • During the course of the year a series of visits to projects should be carried out. • Progress reports should be reviewed for the achievement of targets set at the time of grant allocation. • Information in progress reports should be collated to calculate measures of the overall output of the Programme. <p>An increased use of information technology could allow such an improved monitoring and evaluation system to be put in place in an efficient manner.</p>	Section 6.4	The Unit is in full agreement with these points, many of which we are already proceeding to implement.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Case Studies

Case Study 1: Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre

Description of Haringey Project

The Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre operates an Irish Centre Advice and Support Service project providing front line advice, advocacy and support to the Irish community in areas including registration, housing, benefits, national insurance and health. The Advice and Support Service project includes a Drop-In service for pensioners. It also includes a Survivors Outreach service that provides advice and assistance to victims of institutional abuse in Ireland in the areas of counselling, tracing, legal services, welfare advice and financial awards. The project includes a specialist Disability Service to assist clients in areas including home adaptations, free travel and welfare benefits. The project has also developed an Outreach Service to assist the more vulnerable and isolated to become more socially integrated and access services they need.

Aims of Haringey Project

The main aims of the Haringey project are to:

- To promote the welfare and benefit of the Irish Community;
- To promote Irish Culture and Heritage; and
- To promote good race relations.

Main Target Group

The Haringey Advice and Support Service project targets elderly Irish and Irish Travellers. In 2005 the project targeted the following categories of clients: the elderly (175); unemployed persons (105); the socially excluded (175); Travellers (150); the disabled (210) and the homeless/persons badly housed (110).

The project expects a steady increase in the number of clients which are aged 60 years and older and also travellers

Age Profile of Project Clients in 2004

The project's clients are set out in Table A1.1. There were 650 clients in total in 2004, 632 of which were Irish. As can be seen from Table A1.1, the projects clients are predominately over 50 years of age.

Table A1.1: Age Profile of Project Clients 2004

	Irish Men	Non-Irish Men	Irish Women	Non-Irish Women	Total
< 15					
16-17	1		2		3
18-25	38	2	29	1	70
26-50	99	3	87	4	193
51-65	161	3	106	2	272
66+	69	2	40	1	112
Total	368	10	264	8	650

Amount of Irish Government Díon Funding Sought 2005

The total cost of the Haringey Advice and Support Service project in 2005 was estimated at €182,440. In that year the project sought €160,521 in Díon funding to finance the project. It was anticipated that Díon funding would be used to fund three existing full time positions of an Advice Worker, an Administrator and a Disabilities Worker as well as funding a new full-time Outreach Worker. In addition to contributing to staffing costs, it was anticipated that Díon funding would also support a cultural/educational project and some refurbishment works on the Haringey Centre. The project's proposed use of 2005 Díon funding is set out in Table A1.2. The Haringey project was allocated €150,000 in 2005.

Table A1.2: Proposed Use of Irish Government Díon Funding 2005

	Amount Sought £	Type Position	Existing or New
Advice Worker	30,812	Full-time	Existing
Administrator	20,795	Full-time	Existing
Disabilities Worker	24,233	Full-time	Existing
Outreach Worker	29,066	Full-time	New
15% Managers Salary	4,690	-	-
Cultural/Educational	5,100	-	-
Refurbishment	45,825	-	-
Total Cost of Project	182,440	-	-
Total Díon Funding Sought	160,521	-	-
Total Díon Funding Allocated	150,000		

Sources of Income

The Haringey Centre's total income is set out in Table A1.3. As outlined in the Table, the organisation is in receipt of statutory and Irish Government Díon funding and also uses its own resources to fund its activities. In 2004, Díon funding represented 14.4 per cent of the organisation's income. The estimated 2005 contribution was 28.3 per cent.

Table A1.3: Project's Source of Income

	2004		2005 est.	
	£	%	£	%
Statutory – Local Authority (Posts)	55,000	11.8	55,000	9.7
Statutory – Rent	82,000	17.6	82,000	14.4
Díon	67,000	14.4	160,521	28.3
Own Resources	262,276	56.2	270,000	47.6
Other	-		-	
Total	466,276	100.0	567,521	100.0

Monitoring Activities

The Advice and Support Service project has been awarded the Community Legal Services (CLS) Quality Mark. The Quality Mark is part of a Government initiative launched in April 2000 to improve access, for the public, to quality information, advice and legal services. The Quality Mark is a quality standard that underpins all CLS services, so that members of the public who need legal information, advice and other help can rely on receiving a quality assured service from a body awarded the Quality Mark. To be awarded the Quality Mark and be able to display the Quality Mark logo organisations need to demonstrate that they meet the standard required for the type of service being delivered.

Evaluation Activities

The Centre Manager holds review sessions with the project's Advice Worker every 4/6 weeks. The Advice Worker supervises the Disability and Administration staff. The project has commissioned a new system to gather statistical information. User feedback forms are used to gather client feedback.

In addition, the Project Manager keeps the Díon Advisory Committee informed of the project's activity via six monthly reports and an Annual Report. The six monthly reports contain detailed client data including gender, age, marital status, area of residence and county of origin. The reports also provide details of the monies obtained by the project on behalf of the client by

type of benefit as well as the number of enquiries made by clients to the project by the type of enquiry.

Project Outputs

As reported in the project's six monthly service reports to the Díon Advisory Committee, in 2005 519 people availed of the projects services. There were 1,528 visits made to the project during the year. There were 2,260 enquiries made to the project in 2005. Enquiries related predominately to welfare benefits (1209), housing (297), health (234), finance (224) and registration/passport services (134). The project was active in obtaining over €1.1 million in benefit entitlements for its clients during 2005.

Case Study 2: Southwark Irish Pensioners' Project

Description of Southwark Project

The Southwark Irish Pensioners' Project provides a lunch and drop-in service for Irish pensioners four days weekly. Through its community support services the project provides support and assistance to Irish pensioners in areas including bereavement, health problems, isolation, accessing welfare benefits and hospital discharges. The project also supports clients moving to supported and sheltered housing as well as clients with substance misuse issues by advocating on their behalf with welfare services. The project operates a befriending service where volunteers befriend a client and relay issues facing the client to the project's Community Team. The project also has a team of volunteer hospital visitors who visit clients in the four major hospitals in Southwark and in neighbouring boroughs. The volunteers provide the clients with emotional support while the project provides advocacy support to ensure the client receives the best possible care package and appropriate residential or nursing home placement.

Aims of Southwark Project

The aims of the Southwark Irish Pensioners' Project is to benefit elderly Irish people resident in Southwark by relieving such people who are in conditions of poverty, sickness and distress or who are otherwise in need; and providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for the recreation and other leisure time activities of such people in the interests of social welfare so that their conditions of life may improve.

Main Target Group

The project targets Irish people over 55 years of age.

Age Profile of Project Clients in 2004

The project's clients are set out in Table A2.1. There were 447 clients in total in 2004, 431 of which were Irish. Two thirds of the project's clients were female. Over 85 per cent of the project's clients were over the age of 66 years. Many are over 70 years of age and require more specialised services in regard to hospital discharge and community care packages, advocacy concerning moving into supported housing, nursing or residential homes or having building alterations to private dwellings to enable independent living in the community. Isolation continues to be a huge factor, many clients live alone with the majority of them having relatives living some distance away and often decreased mobility accompanies age.

Table A1.4: Age Profile of Project Clients 2004

	Irish Men	Non-Irish Men	Irish Women	Non-Irish Women	Total
< 15					
16-17					
18-25					
26-50			4		4
51-65	16		46		62
66+	111	5	254	11	381
Total	127	5	304	11	447

Amount of Díon Funding Sought 2005

In 2005 the Southwark Pensioners' project applied for funding for an Outreach Worker to add to its existing Díon supported staff of Community Support Team Co-ordinator and two Outreach Workers.

Table A1.5: Proposed Use of Díon 2005 Funding

	Amount Sought £	Type Position	Existing or New
Community Support Team Co-ordinator		Full time	Existing
Outreach Worker		Part time	Existing
Outreach Worker		Part time	Existing
Assertive Outreach Worker	12,346	Part time	New
Total Cost of Project		-	-
Total Díon Funding Sought	54,000	-	-
Total Díon Funding Allocated	57,305	-	-

Organisation's Source of Income

Southwark's total income is set out in Table A2.3. As outlined in the Table, the organisations main sources of income are local authority funding, charities/trusts and Irish Government Díon funding. Díon funding accounted for 22.3 per cent of the project's income in 2004.

Table A1.6: Project's Source of Income

	2004		2005 est.	
	£	%	£	%
Statutory – Local Authority (Posts)	64,000	26.7	75,000	31.9
Charities/Trusts	59,000	24.6	55,000	23.4
National Lottery	24,000	10.0	10,000	4.3
Fundraising	38,000	15.9	40,000	17.0
Fees Rents Sales Charges	1,200	0.5	1,000	0.4
Díon	53,500	22.3	54,000	23.0
Total	239,700	100.0	235,000	100.0

Monitoring Activities

The project reported that various funders monitor individual workers against agreed targets. No details are provided of this monitoring activity.

Evaluation Activities

Employees of Southwark's Irish Pensioners' Project receive monthly supervision and yearly appraisals. The project uses database records, written and verbal feedback from service users, their carers, and agencies enabling the identification of needs and the development of services accordingly.

The project prepares annual progress reports for the Díon Advisory Committee. The progress report provides a descriptive summary of the project's activities by area of service. The report contains some statistics on client numbers and outlines the future aims of the project going forward.

Project Outputs

According to the project's 2005 progress report:

- The project provided intensive support to 14 clients moving to Supported and Sheltered Housing, Residential and Nursing Homes during 2005. Nine of these clients had no family, so the project advocated on their behalf to ensure they received accommodation that was appropriate to their needs.
- The project's Elderly Outreach Worker supported 45 clients with a variety of issues such as bereavement, health problems, isolation, accessing welfare benefits and hospital discharge.
- The project supports 26 clients with substance misuse issues, 21 of which are over 60 years of age. The work of the project with these

clients included detox, hospital visits, benefits, housing, support visits and networking with other relevant service providers.

- During 2005, the project received on average five referrals a month. Referrals came predominately from Southwark Social Services, as well as from South London and Maudsley Trust Community Mental Health Teams, Lambeth Social Services and the National Health Service Primary Care Trusts.
- The project continued its Befriending service where volunteers befriend a client and issues facing the client are passed back to the community team. There are 11 volunteer Befrienders devoting an average of 56 hours per month to visiting clients. Part of the project's future development plan is to recruit a worker to co-ordinate and develop the Befriending service. The project also has a team of volunteer Hospital Visitors who visit clients in the 4 major hospitals in Southwark. There are also volunteers who visit clients in neighbouring boroughs.
- 85 clients were supported and advised during the year at the 3-weekly Advice Session provided by Blackfriars Advice Centre. In association with Blackfriars Advice Clinic, a training programme for the Community Support Team workers and volunteers was agreed.
- The project workers helped prevent five evictions, and represented two clients with housing issues in legal court proceedings (providing emotional support and interpretations of proceeding).

Case Study 3: Irish Community Care Manchester

Description of Irish Community Care Project

Irish Community Care Manchester provides an Advice and Information service at two drop-in centres located to the north and south of Manchester. As part of the advice and information service clients are assisted with welfare benefits. Advice is also available regarding returning to Ireland, housing, health, pensions, pension credits, disability living allowance, alcohol related problems and Traveller issues. The project has a Survivors of Abuse Project, a Men's Project, a Youth Project, and an Irish Travellers project. The project organises a range of social activities including music, dancing, arts and crafts at five different venues weekly. Over 50 regular volunteers commit time to various efforts from administration to social activities. Volunteer training is provided.

Aims of Project

The objectives of Irish Community Care Manchester are:

- To achieve these aims using a combination of paid professional staff and volunteers who demonstrate with willingness, availability and capability to give community help.
- To achieve these aims making the best use of the available resources, human, physical and financial.
- To provide services which are sensitive to the cultural requirements of Irish people in Manchester and provided in a spirit of community and friendship.

Main Target Group

The project targets isolated and socially excluded Irish people in Manchester city wide, and the bordering areas of Salford, Trafford, Bury and Tameside.

The project anticipates that there will be an increase in the demand for advice and information and for assistance with the recovery of records. Identification is an increasing issue for middle aged men who have to access benefits for the first time. Many have been baptised but not registered at birth and Irish Community Care facilitates the link between the bodies involved in the process. With an ageing Irish population in Manchester, an increase in such requests is anticipated, and also with regard to pensions, returning to Ireland and disability related issues.

Evaluation Activities

The project observes the guidelines provided by the Investor in People and Community Legal Commission. Irish Community Care holds Community Legal Services quality mark for offering general help with casework in the area of Welfare Benefits. There are six-monthly staff and volunteer review days; monthly project reports through the Manager to the Management Committee; six-monthly staff appraisals; ongoing training and skills audits; in service training and training evaluation; user surveys and implementation of ISIS (SIS) for statistical evaluation of service trends and levels.

Case Study 4: The Irish Diaspora Foundation

Description of the Irish Diaspora Foundation Project

The Irish Diaspora Foundation's Cultural and Educational project involves developing the cultural and educational arm of the Irish Diaspora Foundation. The project involves ensuring that the heritage of Ireland including music, dance, sport, cuisine is maintained for second and third generation Irish and also non-Irish.

Aims of the Project

The main aims of the Irish Diaspora Foundation are:

- To enhance and further facilitate cultural activities that take place amongst the Irish in Britain;
- To preserve links with the Irish Community in Ireland and across the world;
- To promote the heritage of Ireland and celebrate the wealth of Irish culture through music, the arts, dance and sport;
- To facilitate social events and functions as well as education and training programmes, exhibitions, and cross cultural initiatives; and
- To actively encourage the involvement of young people with the heritage of Ireland.

Main Target Group

The project targets Irish people living in Manchester, in particular young people. It was estimated by the project that 2,000 young, 200 elderly and 3,800 cross cultural persons would benefit directly from the project.

Amount of D ion Funding Sought 2005

The project sought Irish Government D ion funding in 2005 to contribute to the staffing costs of a full time Cultural and Educational Development Officer and a part time GAA Project Consultant. Limited funding was also sought for capital costs including a laptop, a camera and display boards as well as cultural and educational project costs.

Table A1.10: Proposed Use of Díon 2005 Funding

	Amount Sought £	Type Position	Existing or New
Cultural and Educational Development Officer	19,176	Fulltime	New
University GAA Project Consultant	5,640	Part time	New
Capital Costs	7,157		
Cultural and Educational costs	6,885		
Total Cost of Project	70,000		
Total Díon Funding Sought	38,858		

Organisation's Source of Income

The Irish Diaspora Foundation's income in 2004 is outlined in Table A4.3. In that year the Foundation received funding from the National Lottery, Charities/Trusts and a relatively small Díon grant totalling €3,440 or 8.3 per cent of the Foundations total income that year.

Table A1.11: Organisation's Source of Income

	2004	
	£	%
Local Authority	-	-
Charities/Trusts	13,200	31.7
National Lottery	25,000	60.0
Díon	3,440	8.3
Own Resources	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	41,640	100.0

Evaluation Activities

Evaluation takes place via monthly planning meetings; additional management meetings; bi-monthly staff evaluations, recording attendance; evaluation sessions of educational initiatives and training; sport questionnaires during once off events; keeping records of how Irish Government assistance has been used and a detailed Update Report to Díon.

The Update Report lists the activities of the two posts supported by the Irish Government in 2005 as they relate to their objectives listed in the project's application form. According to the Update Report the Díon funded staff delivered on the objectives set for them. The Update Report is descriptive with limited quantitative data provided in terms of objectives and project activity. Evaluation methods and long term funding plans are reiterated.

Case Study 5: Irish Welfare and Information Centre Birmingham

Description of the IWIC Project

The Irish Welfare and Information Centre (IWIC) provides a variety of projects and services to the most vulnerable in the Irish Community. The IWIC project services include: 1. An Irish Alcohol Project - help and support to those who wish to address their alcohol problem. 2. A Befriending Programme - volunteer opportunities. 3. An Irish Older Adults Project - outreach support for older Irish people. 4. A Community Care Project - frontline advice in the areas of community/health care services, mental health services, accommodation, welfare benefits, debt, racial harassment. Information and help is also provided in relation to Irish Birth Certificates, Irish Passports, arranging a funeral and tracing missing Irish relatives who may be resident in the Birmingham area 5. An Irish Older Adults Primary Care Project - provides access to culturally sensitive primary care services for vulnerable older Irish people. 6. A Tuesday Club - a weekly club for 200 older Irish people. 7. St. Eugene's Court & Drop-in Centre - a supported housing project and Drop-in Centre for older Irish men. 8. Supporting People Project.

Aims of the IWIC Project

The project aims to ensure that all members of the Irish community can play a full part in the multi-cultural community of the West Midlands.

In 2005 the aims of the IWIC project were:

- to continue to employ the project's Welfare Worker and part-time Outreach Worker who provide advice, advocacy and information services; the two Community Links Workers at the Irish Elders Primary Care Project for isolated elderly men; and an Administrative Assistant;
- to extend the project's existing alcohol and substance misuse team in the form of two additional workers;
- to significantly reduce the number of clients or the effects that a substance misuse illness has on these clients through providing outreach, counselling, access to health and statutory services and detox facilities;
- to provide a "wet house" facility where at least 12 clients could be provided with bed space. Provide a roof and basic amenities where those accommodated can sleep, wash, launder their clothes and be provided with support and safety. The Dón funds would be used to adapt, furnish and maintain premises. They would also fund the position of manager of the house.

Main Target Group

IWICB targets Irish persons with alcohol/substance misuse issues.

Age Profile of Project Clients in 2004

The projects reported assisting 3,650 clients in 2004, 3,500 of which were Irish. Over 70 per cent of IWIC's clients were over the age of 50, while 40 per cent were over the age of 65.

Table A1.12: Age Profile of Project Clients 2004

	Irish Men	Non-Irish Men	Irish Women	Non-Irish Women	Total
< 15	14		6		20
16-17		1	8	1	10
18-25	41	13	226	50	330
26-50	1,129	51	683	18	1,881
51-65	1,881	18	653	3	2,555
66+	2,399	17	706	2	3,124
Total	5,464	100	2,282	74	7,920

Amount of Irish Government Díon Funding Sought 2005

The IWICB sought €245,000 in Irish Government Díon funding in 2005. This was composed of €18,000 towards the salary costs of existing staff including a Welfare Worker, a part-time Outreach Worker, two Community Link Workers and an Administrative Assistant. In addition, the project sought €18,000 towards the staffing costs of an Alcohol and Drug Misuse Worker and a Health Professional with alcohol/drug experience. The project also sought €97,000 towards the capital costs of refurbishing and managing a wet house premises.

Table A1.13: Proposed Use of Díon 2005 Funding

	Amount Sought £	Type Position	Existing or New
Alcohol and Drug Misuse Worker	22,736		
Health Professional Manager	22,736		
Refurbishment	29,890	-	-
Continuation of Previous Funding	67,110	-	-
	72,348		
Total Cost of Project	214,820		
Total Díon Grants Sought	245,000		
Total Díon Grants Allocated	120,348		

Organisations' Source of Income

Irish Welfare and Information Centre is funded by and works in partnership with: Birmingham City Council; the Supporting People Fund; Heart of Birmingham Primary Care Trust; Birmingham South Primary Care Trust; Birmingham North Primary Care Trust; the Díon Advisory Committee and donations from the Irish Community.

Table A1.14: Project's Source of Income

	2004		2005 est.	
	£	%	£	%
Statutory – Local Authority (Posts)	402,664	63.2	704,904	65.0
Primary Care Trust	79,385	12.5	99,000	9.1
Deon	122,450	19.2	245,000	22.6
Own Resources	27,362	4.3	30,000	2.8
Other	5,097	0.8	5,000	0.5
Total	636,958	100.0	1,083,904	100.0

Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

All client details and interventions are entered into a tailor made database that was designed by IWIC staff. Client details for the Community Care project are also entered in to the AIMS system which is the regulation and reporting system of Birmingham City Council. Clients are encouraged to assist in the project's monitoring systems and assessments as much as they feel comfortable with by completing satisfaction forms and complaints procedures if any issues arise.

The project has been awarded the Quality Mark and has undergone a review of its procedures, protocols and policies by the Local Authority.

Project Outputs

The IWIC produced a report on the projects supported by Irish Government Díon funding in 2005-6. In the report the project provided a brief summary of the activity and current status of the IWIC's various areas of activity.

Under the Community Care project, the Welfare Worker advised clients on matters relating to Irish Pensions, passport applications and tracking down birth, baptismal or other necessary certificates. The Welfare Worker also co-ordinated the Tuesday Club which has over 200 members and a series of seasonal outings.

During 2005 a new outreach surgery was opened in Kingstanding as a social outlet and as a source of advice on benefits, accommodation, health care,

substance abuse problems, pensions and return to Ireland issues. The surgery has a membership of over 30 persons and is co-ordinated by the project's administrative assistance.

The part time Community Care worker provided both in-house and outreach advice and support services for all members of the Irish community.

Under the Primary Care Project there are two full-time Primary Care Link Workers. They are involved in tracking down the vulnerable and isolated members of the Irish community.

A new Alcohol and Substance Misuse Worker joined the Alcohol team to assist persons to stop drinking, cut down on drinking or find ways of managing their lives despite their drinking. The lack of detoxification facilities and the long waiting list to access this support hindered the work of the team.

The Drop-in Centre at St. Eugene's had their average daily attendance increase from 40 to 60. The Supported Housing project at St. Eugene's houses 44 elderly Irish male residents, and has a waiting list for vacancies. The Tuesday Club and the Drop-In Centre form part of the Elder's Project. There is also an Outreach Worker who supports approximately 40 elderly who are living in substandard accommodation and are lonely and isolated. Under the Supporting People project IWIC delivers support to a rolling 50 Irish clients on housing benefit to enable them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

Appendix 2: Table of Grants in Britain

	2006	2005	2004	2003
	€	€	€	€
BRITAIN				
Dion administration costs	1,636	25,512	220	24,833
Heritage and Culture				
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (to 5 CCÉ branches)	143,765	85,594		
Conradh na Gaeilge, Glasgow	34,388	29,015		
Croy Historical Society		1,451		
Feis Ghlaschú	2,890	2,932		
Garngad Irish Heritage Group	4,768			
Hammersmith Irish Centre	43,346	36,269		
Huddersfield St. Patrick's Day Parade Ass.	11,559			
Irish Arts Foundation, Leeds (formerly Irish Music Project)	78,411	29,015		
Irish Diaspora Foundation	70,423	47,875		
Irish Heritage, Haslingden		5,658		
Lichen Films - Tattie Hockers film		10,262		
Liverpool Irish Festival Society	20,301			
London Irish Pensioners Choir	2,167	1,466		
London Irish Symphony Orchestra	19,693			
Manchester Irish Festival	20,048	21,761		
Mansfield & Dukeries Irish Association	14,449			
Nottingham St.Patrick's Day	8,958			
Southwark Irish Culture and Arts Development	10,114			
St. Patrick's Festival Committee, Scotland	7,224	14,529		
St. Patrick's Traditional Music Group, Scotland	8,669	2,901		
Tyneside Irish Cultural Society	21,673	14,507		
Heritage & Culture Subtotal	522,847	303,235	0	0
Second Line				
Birmingham Irish Community Forum	150,294	87,045	40,500	12,250
Federation Of Irish Societies	726,176	870,448	403,080	228,404
Second line Subtotal	876,470	957,493	443,580	240,654
Sport				
British Universities Gaelic Games	35,400			
Cumann na mBunscol, London	46,236	43,522		
Dewsbury Celtic RLFC	28,898			
Dulwich Harp Under Age GFC	11,559			
Dundee Dalriada GAA		7,330		
Dunedin Connollys Gaelic Football Club	9,825			
Fr. Murphy's Ladies GAA Club	5,057			
Fullen Gaels Hurling Club	2,890			
GAA London Schools Project			38,400	
Green Isle Camogie Club	4,335			
Halifax Irish A.R.L.F.C.	1,445	1,451		
Halifax Irish Centre Amateur F.C.	1,445	1,451		
Halifax Irish Juniors FC	5,972	1,451		

John Mitchell GAA club, Liverpool	2,225			
Kingdom Gaels GAA Club	14,449	7,330		
London County Boards Gaelic Athletic Association	36,122			
London Irish Amateur RFC	14,831			
Round Towers GFC (Senior, Minor & Ladies)	10,837	9,865		
Shalloe Pearses GFC		7,330		
St. Kieran's Gaelic Football Club	7,224			
St. Lawrences na Piarraig GAC	7,947			
Tara Camogie Club	6,068			
Tara Minor GFC	6,791			
Tir Conaill Harps GAC	43,904	29,015		
Warwickshire Schools GAA	36,122	29,015		
Sport Subtotal	339,580	137,760	38,400	0
Welfare				
Action Group for Irish Youth				25,000
Acton Homeless Concern	68,919	55,128	67,560	58,358
Age Concern Ealing	80,146	50,776	51,600	37,157
Age Concern Hackney	56,006		26,160	14,427
Aisling Return to Ireland Project	102,659	87,045	49,980	36,186
An Teach Irish Housing Association				27,000
Angel Drug Service		40,621		
Arlington Action Group, Camden			36,420	
Arlington House	131,909	7,330		
Blackfriars Advice Centre	59,240	54,403	47,580	21,109
Brent Adolescent Centre	22,458	14,660		
Brent Irish Advisory Service (BIAS)	168,520	130,643	120,000	87,837
Bristol Playbus Project	28,898			
Broadway Homelessness and Support	54,470	36,269	44,800	16,968
Cairde na nGael		50,776	61,920	36,186
Camden Women's Aid	55,080			
Cara Irish Housing Association	131,598	28,044	27,120	70,000
Cara Yorkshire (formerly Sheffield Irish Forum)				40,000
Causeway Irish Housing Association	22,685			
Central Eltham Youth Project	31,787			
Coventry Irish Society	137,085	133,207	93,240	76,983
Cricklewood Homeless Concern	546,155	305,492	215,560	77,067
Emerald Circle Club, Harrow	5,867	3,532	3,600	
Equinox (formerly Finsbury Park Initiative)	39,161	50,776	39,600	30,761
Fiann (Federated Irish Association, Nottingham & Notts)		39,170	43,680	
Fireside Charity	58,207	47,225		
GEAR Projects	28,898	29,015	15,600	12,065
Greenwich Irish Pensioners		2,932		
Haringey Irish Centre (includes Haringey Pensioners)	263,390	222,010	99,420	53,342
Hillingdon Borough Irish Society		59,481		
icap (Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy)	362,541	142,355	110,400	77,202
Innisfree Housing Association	33,232			
Irish Centre Housing	47,216	21,761	39,120	37,781
Irish Chaplaincy in Britain	99,527	62,258		
Irish Charitable Trust	109,903	90,022	124,000	70,000

Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas	167,171	151,040	132,000	74,433
Irish Community Care Manchester	152,428	184,245	128,320	106,387
Irish Community Care Merseyside	138,864	188,597	130,620	81,686
Irish Elderly Advice Network (formerly Camden Elderly Irish Network)	105,406	63,989	66,660	26,538
Irish in Greenwich	186,774	119,457	111,120	71,965
Irish Travellers Movement in Britain	77,622	60,048	56,580	19,255
Irish Welfare and Information Centre Birmingham	207,682	174,595	181,620	102,315
ISIAI				7,000
Justice for Travellers, Leeds				17,000
Kilburn Irish Pensioners Group	7,263	4,352	3,600	2,000
Leeds Gypsy and Travellers Exchange (GATE)	56,151	52,328		
Leeds Irish Health & Homes	192,169	180,805	100,440	86,961
Leicester and Leicestershire Irish Forum	58,518	35,906	25,200	20,616
Lewisham Irish Community Centre	74,482	53,678	35,640	25,344
Lewisham Irish Pensioners Association	9,707			
London Gypsy and Traveller Unit	78,898	111,435	77,400	48,251
London Irish Centre Charity	325,649	399,930	291,580	137,837
London Irish Elders' Forum		17,825	50,400	69,366
London Irish Women's Centre	108,366	101,552	104,760	47,044
Luton Irish Forum	137,986	295,970	42,180	30,000
Milton Keynes Irish Centre Limited	37,605			
New Horizon Youth Centre Ltd	49,126	47,951	38,400	24,997
NOAH Enterprise	454,608	84,786	67,320	80,313
Northampton Irish Support Group	48,112	82,693	49,980	36,186
Our Lady Help of Christians, Kentish Town	45,384			
Peckham Settlement (formerly STAG - Southwark Travellers)	94,160	87,045	70,500	45,000
Rehab Irish Elders Centre, Coventry	110,852	101,552	65,760	30,158
Safe Home Programme Ltd. (Irish-based)	165,835	125,148	132,000	82,530
Safe Start Foundation	449,826	72,537	46,260	51,651
Sandwell Irish Society	40,168	20,501	42,360	
Sheffield Gypsy and Traveller Support Group	17,979	21,625	22,080	12,632
Sheffield Support and Development Group	135,941	90,763	53,280	
South London Irish Welfare Society	99,103	89,946	82,860	30,168
Southwark Irish Pensioners Project	195,900	83,135	79,680	67,141
Southwark Irish Youth	14,449	4,352		
St. Catherine's Homeless Project, Edinburgh	29,150			
St. Mungo's Community Housing Association	45,514	45,535	34,500	25,000
St. Theresa's House, Peterborough	43,240	43,979		
The Connection at St Martin's	29,663	21,761	28,440	22,000
The Mary Magdalen Foundation	8,273			
The Maya Centre	27,337	26,552	21,840	9,652
The Passage	53,286	55,833	55,210	21,500
The Simon Community, London	60,283	52,208	56,890	30,158
Wayside Day Centre, Glasgow	36,998			
Welfare Subtotal	7,123,480	5,118,584	3,802,840	2,448,513
Welfare (Community Network)				
Batley Irish Democratic League Club	21,673	14,507		
Birmingham Irish Club	76,754	53,833		

Bolton Irish Community Association	59,278	53,678		
Bradford Irish Democratic League Club	102,625			
Brian Boru Irish Democratic League Club	63,994	29,015		
Celtic & Irish Cultural Society	40,746	7,254		
Dewsbury Irish National League Club	18,783			
Eastleigh & District Irish Society	75,640			
Emerald Centre, Leicester	185,922			
Golden Shamrock Club, Nottingham	7,985			
Greyfriars Club	26,480			
Halifax & District Irish Society	33,882	7,254		
Halifax Irish Centre Irish Democratic League	36,160	10,155		
Haslingden Davitt Irish Democratic League Club	10,628	93,058		
High Wycombe Irish Association	23,443	14,507		
Huddersfield Irish Centre		14,507		
Irish National Institute Ashton-under-Lyne	29,620	14,507		
Irish World Heritage Centre	37,821	14,507		
Lancashire Federation of Irish Democratic League Club	7,224	31,822	45,000	
Leeds Irish Centre	59,278			
London Irish Network		5,513		
Marian Senior Citizens Club	7,263	7,254		
Oldham Irish Society	4,335	7,254		
Over 60s Club, Marylebone	1,483			
Pendle & District Irish Society	2,923	1,451		
Portsmouth Irish Society	59,278			
Queen's Park Senior Citizens Group	5,780	4,398		
Sheffield Irish Elders' Lunch Club				7,000
South London Irish Association	39,913	29,091		
St Mary's Social Club and Parochial Hall		14,507		
St. Ann's Senior Citizens Club	1,754	2,932		
St. Michael's Irish Centre	115,715	42,264		
Tara Irish Pensioners Club	2,630	4,261	3,600	2,000
Tuesday Club, Leeds Irish Centre	15,932	4,352		
Tyneside Irish Centre	68,033	58,030		
Warrington Irish Democratic League Club (the Irish Club)	14,449	10,764		
Yorkshire Fed. of Irish Democratic League Clubs	7,224			
Welfare (Community network) Subtotal	1,264,647	550,675	48,600	9,000
BRITAIN Subtotal	10,128,660	7,093,259	4,333,640	2,723,000

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

Appendix 3 : Table of Grants in United States

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Aisling Irish Centre, New York	26,192	49,542	69,684	83,810
Chicago Irish Immigrant Support	0	49,237	51,648	66,578
Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres 2006 grant			32,792	39,330
Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres Conference				29,474
Emerald Isle Immigration Centre, New York	56,749	78,441	106,575	127,281
Fáilte Irish Immigration Centre, Washington D.C.	10,978	12,385		
GAA North America Youth Development Programme				75,000
IECE re San Diego			2,500	
Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform				69,882
Irish Apostolate	9,149		9,838	11,799
Irish Cultural Centre, Boston		23,100	10,000	18,939
Irish Immigration and Pastoral Centre, Philadelphia	26,192	49,542	69,684	83,810
Irish Immigration Centre, Boston	50,185	71,010	106,575	127,281
Irish Immigration Pastoral Centre, San Francisco	24,924	41,285	59,846	83,810
Irish Korean War Memorial committee				7,899
Irish Outreach San Diego	3,561	14,863		15,665
Irish Pastoral Centre, Boston	50,185	71,010	95,917	114,553
New York Irish Centre		23,100	69,684	83,810
Ocean City Irish Student Outreach		1,239	820	787
Project Irish Outreach	41,034	61,927	75,422	86,473
Seattle Irish Immigration Support Group	1,780	1,651	1,640	1,880
Immigrant Support Group		1,615		
UNITED STATES TOTAL	300,927	549,946	762,625	1,128,060

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

Appendix 4 : The Aisling Irish Center, New York

The Aisling Center is a community outreach centre dedicated to assisting the Irish and Irish-American community in New York. Its main priority is to assist Irish immigrants in their transition to life in the USA. This is done by offering a number of services including legal, social, educational, and psychological services.

According to its own policy, the centre aims to be a focus point for people to express feelings, seek help with employment, accommodation, advice on immigration and on services in New York. In a practical way it functions as a drop in centre where people can get information, take classes, or simply socialize and network with the Irish community.

The main services offered are:

Social Services

Confidential Counselling: An experienced and professional social worker is available on a “walk in” or appointment basis. Psychotherapists and counsellors are also available for both evening and weekend appointments, either at the centre or at another location.

Social Service Referrals: The centre’s staff provide social service referral information and assistance i.e. alcohol and drug problems; depression and suicide awareness; domestic violence; rape, sexual assault; homelessness; financial problems, relationship issues; emotional and family pressures; pregnancy and health insurance.

Senior Group - Young At Heart: The centre hosts a senior citizens group.

Mothers & Toddlers Group: A mothers and toddlers group is held on two mornings a week.

Preventative Mental Health Programs: Campaigns include health and wellness campaign in Irish/Irish American community and a suicide prevention programme targeted at the entire community

Irish Volunteers for the Homeless: The Centre acts as a base for this volunteer group.

Free Health Screenings: Free health screenings to test blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose levels are provided by Mercy Community Care Outreach Programme at the centre.

Health Insurance: Assistance is provided with health insurance issues including Medicaid application forms, and referrals. The centre also assists with emergency medical situations.

Education Services

Computer Courses: The centre offers the International Computer Driving License certification (ICDL), an international computer qualification designed to assist individuals develop their IT skills and enhance their career prospects. The Centre employs certified instructors to teach classes at all levels (beginners, intermediate and advanced) covering Word, Excel, PowerPoint, File Management, Access, Internet and E-Mail.

Arts & Crafts Classes for Children: The art classes are for children of all ages and are run by a qualified and experienced Art teacher.

Irish Language class: The Centre offers an Irish Language class for young children.

Irish Music Classes:

Irish Dance Classes:

Yoga:

After School Homework Help:

Employment Services

Local jobs are posted on a community notice board in the centre which is updated daily. There is also an online bulletin board for current vacancies. A student guide and package of information, is made available to all students arriving over the summer.

Accommodation Services

Accommodation Notice Board: The centre provides information to those seeking accommodation in the Yonkers and Westchester county areas. All current accommodation is posted on a community notice board in the Centre. An online bulletin board is also available.

Guest Accommodation: The centre maintains a list of guest and self-catering short term accommodation for people visiting the area.

Legal Services

Legal Referrals: The centre can provide legal referrals to a network of attorneys in a number of areas including immigration, personal litigation, criminal law, and family law.

Passports: US, Irish and English passport application forms are available at the centre. An authorized signatory is available to witness these.

Immigration Counselling: The centre advises on immigration issues and offers assistance with citizenship and other related immigration issues.