



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

Decade of Centenaries

Justice Sector
Programme
2022-2024



Message from the Minister for Justice



Over the past decade, we have collectively reflected on many of the formative events in the history of our State as part of the Decade of Centenaries Programme.

We have now moved into the next phase of the State's commemorative programme, a period which saw the foundation of the State and the establishment, or indeed in some cases the handing over, of many of the institutions and administrative pillars which have served us since then.

Central to this was the justice sector. Indeed, 1922 was a particularly significant year.

It saw the foundation of our national police service, An Garda Síochána.

It was also, of course, a year which tragically saw the advent of the Civil War and this was reflected in the occupation and battle of the Four Courts, and with

it the destruction of the Public Records Office.

Both 1922 and the years that followed saw many developments and transitions, including the end to the revolutionary Dáil Courts regime, and the coming into being of the Courts system of the new State.

These were tumultuous years as the new State came into being.

Both the Department of Justice, its forerunner, the Department of Home Affairs, and the various other parts of the justice sector were central to that time and that work.

I hope that the Justice Sector Programme 2022-2024 will capture some of the importance of this work, and help bring some new insights and understanding to those years.

This must be an open and honest discussion, and throughout we will attempt to consider all aspects of our history -

those that are well known, and those which may not have received enough discussion in the past.

I hope that you will join us in that spirit in your participation.

The Decade of Centenaries Programme provides a critical opportunity to focus on the development of access to historical records and primary sources from this key period. This programme details the various initiatives being pursued across the justice sector in this regard.

Officials in my Department have sought to ensure that our events and projects are balanced, mature and respectful and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Maurice Manning, Chair of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations, and the Group, for the guidance in developing this programme of events and initiatives.

I also want to sincerely thank the justice sector agencies for engaging with my

Department over the past year, as the sector has collaborated towards the production of a comprehensive, varied sectoral programme of commemorations.

Additions and enhancements to the programme will be announced on an ongoing basis through the sector's various web and social media channels, where we have already produced much content.

In late November last year, my Department livestreamed a limited webinar series to commence its Decade of Centenaries Programme in advance of the formal launch of the full programme of events for the period 2022-2024.

This included:

- 'Forbidden Love: Same-sex relationships in early 20th century Ireland' which was livestreamed on 24 November 2021 and featured a discussion between notable academics focussed on the challenges of criminalisation and invisibilisation faced by queer men and women during this period in Irish history; and

- 'Women in the justice sector: 100 years of impact', which was livestreamed on 25 November 2021 and featured a discussion with women leaders in the justice sector reflecting on their personal experiences in the sector, as well as on the experiences of other women who have played a significant role in the sector over the last 100 years.

Separately, the story of the emergence of the Department of Justice in Ireland in the 5-year period 1919 to 1924 is presented in a YouTube video, 'The Ministries of Home Affairs and Justice in Ireland, 1919-1924', released on 19 January this year by my Department.

A bilingual consideration of the administration of justice in Ireland over the last century from former Chief Justice Frank Clarke was also made available on the Department's YouTube channel as part of this year's Seachtain na Gaeilge. These webinars and videos remain available to view on my Department's YouTube

channel and, in addition to an event hosted last autumn to launch Professor Seán McConville's final book in his trilogy on the history of political prisoners in Ireland, have already provided an interesting introduction to this phase of justice sector commemorations.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the justice sectoral programme of commemorations for 2022-2024 under the Decade of Centenaries Programme. I hope you will have the opportunity to engage with a number of the events and projects that feature in the programme.



Helen McEntee, T.D.
Minister for Justice

Centenary of An Garda Síochána (2022)

The foundation of the Civic Guards / An Garda Síochána in 1922 was a momentous event in the history of the State. A significant programme of initiatives at both national and local level has been developed by An Garda Síochána to respectfully commemorate its establishment and will provide an opportunity for An Garda Síochána to engage with the community it serves.



Chief Superintendent Matthis McCarthy and Civic Guards take over Dublin Castle

Some of the commemorative initiatives which will take place include:

- In cooperation with An Post, a Garda Centenary stamp was launched in January 2022 and is available in all post offices. Special first day covers and souvenir items are also available.
- A 'Day in The Life' photographic project was launched on 21 February 2022. One hundred years to the day since the first member joined An Garda Síochána at the RDS in Dublin, this initiative enables Garda members and staff to take photographs, showing the public the depth and range of work undertaken across the organisation over 24 hours to keep people safe, particularly in those parts of the organisation that are not always public-facing.
- An Garda Síochána marched in this year's St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin. The Garda Band was also involved in the festival.
- An Garda Síochána and Kildare County Council will host an event in Kildare on 16 April to commemorate the Kildare Mutiny.

- On 24 May 2022, an event will take place in the Gresham Hotel to mark the historic meeting, chaired by Michael Collins, which took place in the hotel on 9 February 1922, where the Provisional Government formed a committee to set up a new police service to replace the RIC. The first recruits were subsequently sworn in at a temporary training centre at the RDS in Dublin on 21 February. This event was initially due to take place on 9 February 2022 but was postponed due to COVID-19.
- An Garda Síochána to launch a new, historical, online photo archive of policing in the first half of 2022.
- On 27 August 2022, the flagship national centenary commemorative event for An Garda Síochána will be held at Dublin Castle. The event will recreate the occasion in August 1922 when Commissioner Michael Staines led 380 Civic Guards through the Palace Street gates into Dublin Castle following its evacuation by the British Army. This was the first time that a large number of uniformed Civic Guards appeared in public and was hugely

symbolic. An open day will take place in Dublin Castle, providing the public with the opportunity to view displays and engage with members from a variety of Garda units. A specially commissioned piece of music by the composer Odhrán Ó Casaide will be performed by Garda Band at the event. The Garda Museum and Memorial Garden will be open to visitors.



Garda on duty in Dublin, early 1960s

- A centenary service medal will be issued to all serving and retired members in June/July, accompanied by a certificate of appreciation from the Minister and Commissioner, with a commemorative item issued to Garda staff.
- Renovation of the memorial cenotaph at Garda Headquarters.
- Books on the history of the organisation and the contribution of women to An Garda Síochána will be published this year.
- Local initiatives including re-enactments of key events, ecumenical services, and commemorations.

Centenary of occupation of the Four Courts and destruction of the Public Records Office

 (April-June 2022)

2022 marks the centenary of the occupation and subsequent Battle of the Four Courts, resulting in the destruction of the Public Records Office. The Courts Service's Decade of Centenaries commemorative programme has a particular focus on the buildings and the people who worked and lived in them and the surrounding areas, and the events they experienced.

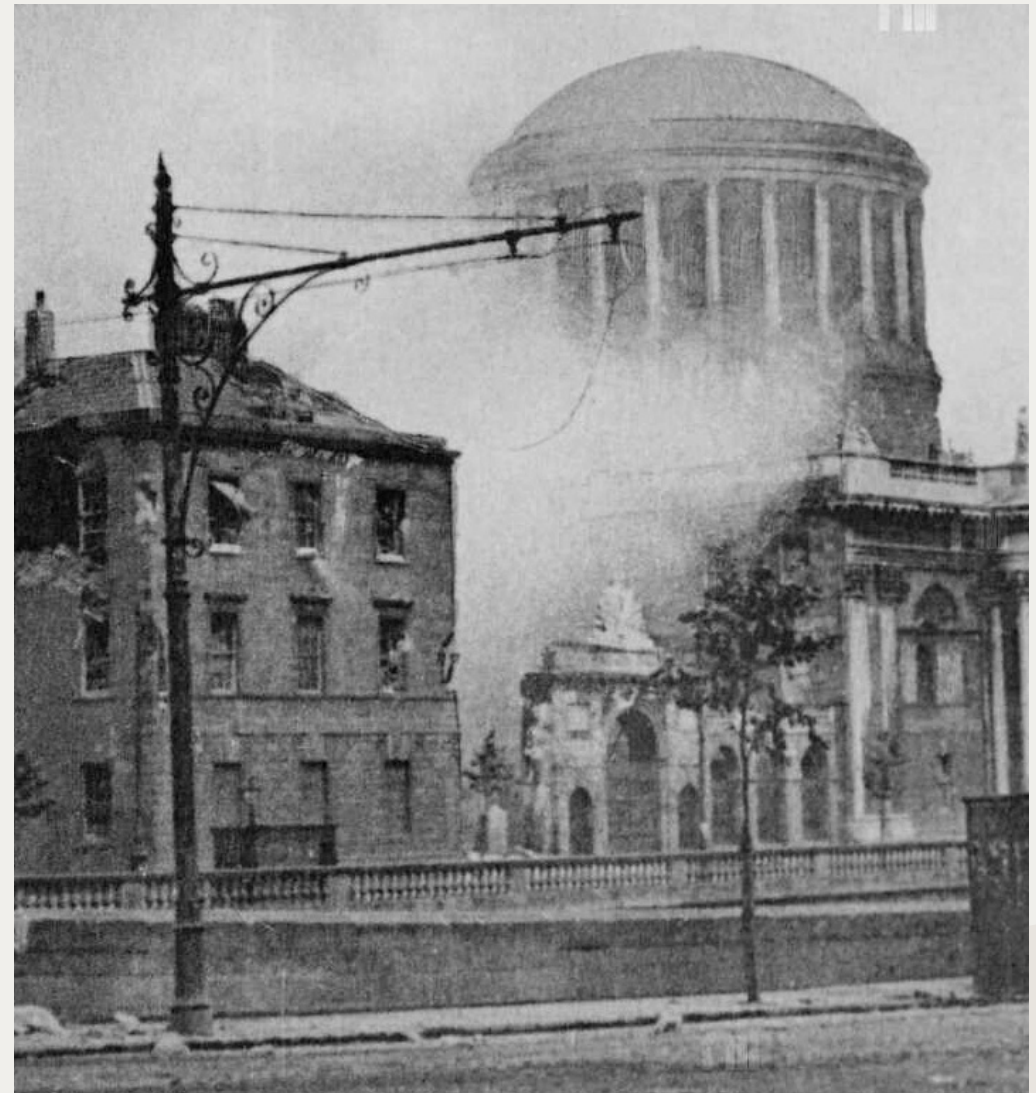
Four Courts explosion 1922



As part of the commemorations the Courts Service is collaborating with the Beyond 2002 research project, dedicated to the virtual reconstruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland.

Some of the highlights from the Courts Service's commemorative programme will include:

- A joint online event on 14 April 2022 with the Beyond 2022/Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland research project and the National Archives of Ireland in the Court of Appeal (formerly the reading room of the Public Record Office), to mark the first day of the occupation of the Four Courts. This will include a preview of the launch of the virtual tour of the Old Treasury Building and open-access archive.
- A number of events in June 2022 to mark the occupation and Battle of the Four Courts, including the launch of a photographic exhibition on 25 June 2022 and, subject to public health guidelines, guided tours through the Four Courts to the exhibition.
- Development of a Four Courts 100 App to provide virtual access to tour and exhibition.
- A lecture series to run from April-June 2022 to explore in more detail the historical significance of the events of that time, the lives of those involved and the impact on the Court, including the architectural story of the buildings.
- Talk/panel discussion with the National Archives, who are collaborating on an exhibition with the Irish Architectural Archive on what the Public Records Office looked like in 1922.
- Beyond 2022 will launch the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland on 30 June 2022.



Four Courts explosion 1922, View from Bridge Street

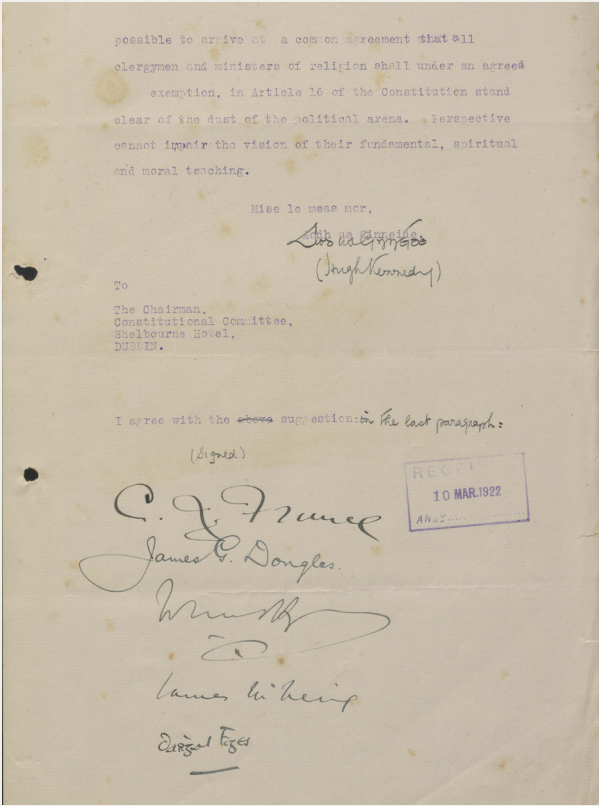
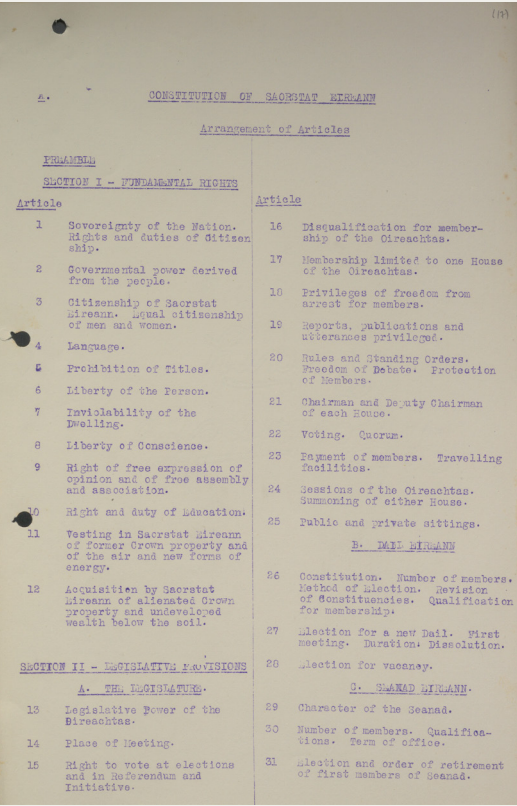
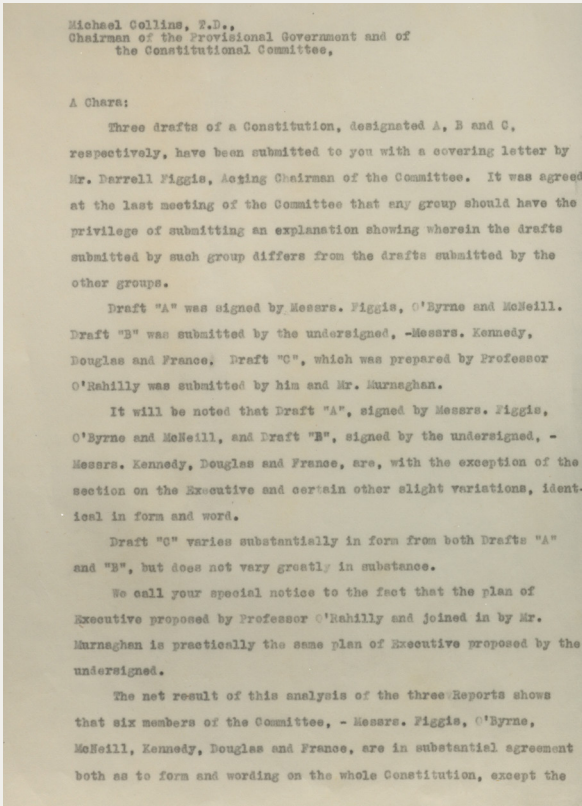
Centenary of development and enactment of the Irish Free State Constitution

 (October 2022)

In 2022 we will also commemorate the centenary of the development and enactment of the Irish Free State Constitution. The development of the constitution took place over the period October-November 1922, with the constitution enacted on 6 December 1922.

A joint commemorative event with the Courts Service and National Archives of Ireland is planned for October 2022 to mark the work

of the Constitution Committee, which culminated in the enactment of the Free State Constitution, and the records which document its work. Further information on specific plans to consider the Free State Constitution and its long-term impact will be announced later in 2022 and will complement the current digitization of the records of the 1922 Constitutional Committee by the National Archives.



Documentation in relation to the development of the Irish Free State Constitution

Justice in Ireland 1822-2022 symposium



(22 November 2022)

A justice sector symposium will take place on 22 November 2022 at the Printworks at Dublin Castle in partnership with an academic institution.

The symposium provides an appropriate platform to reflect on a broad timespan for the development of Ireland's criminal justice sector since 1822, the year of the establishment of the County Constabulary, and falling in the centenary year of An Garda Síochána and of the transfer of many of the institutions of the justice sector to the then Department of Home Affairs in 1922.

The symposium will involve a number of academics and justice sector practitioners presenting papers on topics from across the preceding two centuries and will include consideration of not just the history of policing in Ireland over the period in question, but of probation services and the prisons system as well. This may, for example, include an examination of the key role played by women, such as Cathleen Gargan, the first paid Probation Officer in Ireland, in the establishment of probation in Ireland.



View from inside Mountjoy Prison, Dublin



Cathleen Gargan, first paid Probation Officer in Ireland



A member of An Garda Síochána directs traffic

Department of Justice history projects



(2022-24)

The Department of Justice also intends to commence a number of projects with regard to its own history.



An oral history project to capture the recollections of the retired officials involved in the department's interesting recent history, including a substantial contribution to the peace process.



With the support of the National Archives, the creation of a catalogue of departmental files from the early 20th century for transfer to National Archives to facilitate public access and contribute to the broadening of our historical narrative.



Along with cataloguing the Department's early files, the commissioning of a written history of the Department's first 50 years, starting from its preceding Home Affairs period.



To coincide with the centenary of the renaming of the Department of Home Affairs to the Department of Justice under the Ministers and Secretaries Act 1924, it is proposed to develop an exhibition on the first 50 years of the history of the Department to take place in June 2024.



Department of Justice

Examination of history of Dáil Courts



(2023/2024)

The revolutionary Dáil Courts system, created in 1919 during the War of Independence, was suspended on 11 July 1922, about two weeks after the outbreak of the Civil War, and was wound up by Acts passed in 1923 and 1925.

In line with the recommendation by the Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations, the Courts Service is considering appropriate means by which to explore the history and work of the Dáil Courts over the coming years.



© National Museum of Ireland

Republican court sitting in Westport Town Hall, 1920

Consideration of formative legislation in early years of State



(2023)

A series of events will be organised in 2023 on the impact of formative legislation on the shaping of the State in its early years.

In addition to legislation which provided for a stable and enduring system of Government in a State emerging from years of war and violence, consideration will also be given some of the more restrictive pieces of legislation. Further details of this work will be confirmed over the coming months.

Centenary of Courts of Justice Act 1924



(2024)

The Courts of Justice Act 1924 established a new system of courts for the Irish Free State. The jurisdiction of all of the courts then sitting in the Irish Free State was transferred to the new courts created by the Act and the courts previously established by the Parliament of the United Kingdom ceased to exist. Among the new courts was the Supreme Court of the Irish Free State and the first Chief Justice of the Irish Free State was also appointed under the Act.

The centenary will provide an opportunity to mark both this landmark legislation and the work of the Judiciary Commission which preceded it. Details of commemorative events to mark this centenary will be finalised closer to the time.

2022

1922 was a landmark year for the justice sector, with a number of its key institutions established or transferred to the administration of the new Irish Free State. Notably, 1922 witnessed the foundation of An Garda Síochána. The year also saw the transfer of a number of functions from the outgoing administration to the then Department of Home Affairs, while the Constitution of the Irish Free State was

published in December 1922. The operation of the Courts was also directly impacted by the occupation and Battle of the Four Courts.

The following key events will take place over the course of 2022 to mark these events, subject to ongoing public health considerations:

JUSTICE SECTOR PROGRAMME 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

DATE	EVENT/INITIATIVE	LOCATION
14 April 2022	Centenary of the first day of the occupation of the Four Courts	Hybrid online/in-person event at Four Courts
24 May 2022	Event to mark the foundation of An Garda Síochána	Gresham Hotel
24 June 2022	Launch of the Four Courts 100 exhibition – Open to public	Round Hall, Four Courts
25 June, 2 July, 9 July	Public guided tours of the Four Courts and exhibition	Four Courts
30 June 2022	Centenary of destruction of Public Records Office; Beyond 2022 to launch Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland	Hybrid online/in-person event at Four Courts
27 August 2022	Flagship commemorative event for centenary of An Garda Síochána	Dublin Castle
October 2022	Centenary of the development and enactment of the Irish Free State Constitution	Event format and location to be confirmed
22 November 2022	Justice sector symposium	Printworks, Dublin Castle



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