



**WESTERN
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**

WDC FOI Publication Scheme

June2021

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FOI Publication Scheme

[Section 8](#) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 requires FOI bodies to prepare and publish as much information as possible in an open and accessible manner on a routine basis outside of FOI, having regard to the principles of openness, transparency and accountability as set out in Sections 8(5) and 11(3) of the Act. This allows for the publication of records outside of FOI provided that such publication is not prohibited by law. The scheme commits FOI bodies to make information available as part of their normal business activities in accordance with this scheme.

Here you will find details of the WDC FOI Publication.

About Us and What We Do

Below you will find more information on roles, responsibilities, organisational structure, location and contacts within the WDC.

- **Establishment of the Organisation**

Set up in the late 1990s, the Western Development Commission (WDC) was a government response to intense public pressure to help tackle the massive population decline the Western Region of Ireland had endured over many years. The scale of this decline, coupled with the region's peripheral location and weak infrastructure, resulted in little investment being attracted to the West. The resulting lack of job opportunities and widespread emigration led to the setting up of the Western Development Commission (WDC) in 1997. The WDC has been hugely successful in responding to the challenge:

- It has been the only agency with the remit to advise national government on policy changes vital for the West of Ireland region
- It has been able to support local businesses with expertise and with investment from the unique Western Investment Fund (WIF).
- It has supported and set up projects and other initiatives both on its own and through working with other agencies.
- Its cutting-edge and comprehensive research on the Western Region has helped throw new light on what businesses and individuals need in order to thrive and prosper in the Western counties.
- Its regionally focused ethos and a strong culture of sharing its resources and information has meant that it has played – and will continue to play – a central role in bringing growth and prosperity to the Western Region.

The WDC have recently launched our 'Work Smarter, Live Better' strategy which is aimed at building on the growth of remote working and facilitation of innovation within a globally competitive region that offers a quality of life that's among the best in the world. The strategy has three pillars:

- Regional Promotion will focus on the further development of the WDC's jobs and lifestyle portal called lookwest.ie and engaging with communities in our remit.

- Regional Leadership will see the continuation of WDC policy analysis, supporting the Creative Economy and the WDC's role as co-ordinating agency for the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) project, set out in Project Ireland 2040.
- Sustainable Enterprise will take a longer-term view, continuing to invest in new ideas and build on the success of the Western Investment Fund, the on-going promotion of Social Enterprise and over a ten-year period working with higher education institutions, other agencies and departments to identify one or two sectors that will deliver a competitive advantage for the region at a global level.

The Commission has 12 members appointed by its parent Department.

The Commission's head office is located at Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon and has a full time equivalent of 28 staff.

The Western Development Commission is a trusted organisation with expertise in policy analysis, regional development, fund management and corporate governance.

- **WDC Board**

The WDC Board has 12 members and is an advisory and decision-making forum that assists and oversees the management of the organisation.

The role of the Board is to assist the WDC in the formulation and management of policies and procedures.

The Board also assists in the development and improved performance of the organisation.

Members of the Board meet on a monthly basis.

- **Roles, Responsibilities and Functions**

The Western Development Commission Act of 1998 sets out a clear and wide-ranging mandate for the organisation. This mandate extends to supporting business, social enterprises and projects with the aim of encouraging economic and social development in the Western Region. It provides for the WDC to co-operate with, and co-ordinate, national, regional and local state bodies and to promote infrastructural and other initiatives that will support business and social enterprise in the region.

The Act provides for the WDC to consult with the Minister for Rural and Community Development and other Ministers of the Government on any matter relating to its mandate insofar as they relate to the Western Region.

The Act also provides for the WDC to operate an Investment Fund to enable it to further the economic and social development of the region.

Governance/Management Arrangements

Details of the the WDC Team and positions held within the organisation are available on our website - <https://westerndevelopment.ie/about/meet-the-team/>

Corporate Plans and Strategies

- **Our Strategy**

Our [Strategy Statement - 'Work Smarter, Live Better'](#) defines the WDC's mandate, mission and strategic goals for the next 5 years, 2019 – 2024. It sets the key outcomes and indicators that the WDC will use to measure its performance.

Areas outlined in the strategy Statement include:

Regional Promotion. We will promote the Western Region, engaging people in the work that we do. Working with others, we will inform and support those living, working or drawn to the renowned quality of life and beautiful region in which we live.

Regional Leadership. We will take a lead role in informing, and where appropriate, delivering national and regional policies and programmes. We will work collaboratively with key stakeholders to build a globally competitive region.

Sustainable Enterprise. Taking the long-term view, we will identify, support and develop key sectors to build a sustainable future. We will invest to grow businesses and employment, sustaining the region's natural resources, unique culture and vibrant communities.

- **WDC Annual Report 2018**

Connectivity and sustainability are key drivers, supporting and creating sustainable business that supports communities across the Western Region, in a way that protects our unique environment.

Working collaboratively with others, we will support and create opportunities that balance the needs of our region, its people, and future, building on existing and emerging sectoral and indigenous strengths.

Our vision is to work collaboratively to promote our region at a global level and to identify, analyse and seek to mitigate and overcome the challenges at a regional level to ensure vibrant, connected communities.

The WDC will promote the Western Region as a globally competitive region with an exceptional work-life balance.

We will work to mitigate regional disparity, both within the region and with other regions, and lead in offering a balance of smarter working opportunities and equality of opportunity and access to state supports for all citizens across the region.

Despite significant, and on-going, social environmental and technological change, the Western Region of Ireland offers a work life balance and personal and professional opportunities to progress that are among the best in the world.

The WDC 2018 Annual Report can be downloaded [here](#)

- **Pay Grading Structure**

Pay grades are determined by the Department of Expenditure and Reform (DPER). More information can be found at the following link: [Pay Grading Structure](#)

- **Our Locations**

Western Development Commission HQ
Dillon House
Ballaghaderreen
Co. Roscommon
F45 WY26



<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Western+Development+Commission/>

The Building Block
BRIDGE street
Sligo
F91 XY2N



<https://www.google.com/maps/place/The+Building+Block/>

Unit 3A,
NUI Galway Business Innovation Centre,
Galway.
H91R6F9



<https://www.google.com/maps/place/NUI+Galway+Research+and+Innovation+Centre/>

- **WDC Customer Action Plan and Customer Charter**

The WDC Customer Service Action Plan 2019 – 2024 sets out the relevant steps the WDC will take to deliver on the commitments in its Customer Charter up to the end of 2024 in line with its [Strategic Statement](#). The actions, indicators and timelines are set out in accordance with the [12 Guiding Principles of Quality Customer Service](#) which were agreed by the DPER in 2000.

Download the Action Plan and Customer Charter [here](#)

- **Codes of Practice or Guidelines**

A Code of Conduct was prepared on a collaborative basis, involving members of the Board, Management Team and staff of Western Development Commission (WDC), for approval and adoption by the Board of WDC, taking into account the implications of The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016), the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 and 2001, the WDC Act 1998 and the current human resource policies of the WDC.

The WDC Code of Conduct can be downloaded [here](#)

Our Decision-Making Processes

Our [Strategy Statement](#) defines the WDC's mandate, mission and strategic goals for the next 5 years, 2019 – 2024. It sets the key outcomes and indicators that the WDC will use to measure its performance.

Our functions and services

The WDC as a statutory body has an obligation to advise the Government on issues that impact on the Western Region and to promote Government policy that is directed at improving social and economic standards in the region. The WDC manages the WDC Investment Fund to provide loans and equity to businesses and local communities in the Western Region.

Financial Information

- **C&AG Audit of Financial Statements**

At the end of each financial year, the WDC is required to prepare a set of Financial Statements and submit to the C&AG for audit before the 31st March each year. On completion of this audit a full set of Financial Statements will be presented to the relevant Minister for laying before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

- **Revised Estimates**

Revised Estimates are a detailed version of Budget Day Estimates and include information on spending within individual programmes along with the overall financial allocation for the WDC. The Revised Estimates Volume for the Public Service is published in mid-December every year and provides more detail on the allocations that were announced in the Budget.

- **Payments over €20,000**

There is a commitment in the Public Service Reform Plan that all purchase orders of €20,000 or over shall be published online.

The WDC, in keeping with a commitment in the Programme for Government, will publish details of payments made for goods and services valued at €20,000 or more. This information will be published quarterly and is currently published for years 2017 – 2020.

[Purchase Orders over €20,000](#)

- **Government Remuneration**

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) has responsibility for the development and implementation of Government public service pay policy. More information can be found on the [Department section on Gov.ie](#).

- **Procurement Information**

Public Procurement can be defined as the acquisition, whether under formal contract or not, of works, supplies and services by public bodies

The WDC uses a competitive process, in accordance with OGP [procurement guidelines](#), when purchasing all supplies and services.

Depending on the value of the contract, the WDC procures goods and services by

- Advertising tenders on www.etenders.gov.ie;
- Drawing down from national or regional frameworks- Details of Frameworks operated by the Office of Government Procurement are available at www.procurement.ie
- Inviting quotations from suppliers on the WDC Panel of suppliers
- Inviting quotations directly under €25,000

Guidance Documents for Suppliers

[Guidance for Suppliers for Registering on eTenders](#)

[eTenders Supplier Guide](#)

[Benefit of eTenders for Suppliers](#)

Other Relevant Information

- **FOI Disclosure Log**

The WDC has a policy of posting a summary of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and the subsequent replies on the WDC website for reference purposes. FOI requests received since January 2018 [here](#).
