



BUILDING WORKS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Over the past year the National Archives has been carrying out major upgrade works to its storage areas. The National Archives occupies two buildings, Bishop Street which combines storage, staff offices and Reading Room facilities and the former site of the Public Record Office in the Four Courts. The storage facility in the Four Courts was rebuilt in the 1920s following the destruction of the original building during the civil war in 1922.

The National Archives has embarked on a refurbishment of the storage facility in the Four Courts to upgrade it to modern repository standards. This work involves the removal of old steel shelving constructs and the installation of modern static shelving. All areas have also been painted and decorated. As you can see from the photographs below this work greatly improves the conditions in the storage areas.

In 2011, improvement works were carried out in the areas of 2C and 2D, and Vaults 8, 9 and 10. In February 2012, works are commencing in the areas of 2A, 2B and 1D. To carry out these works, all archives must be removed from the affected areas and unfortunately will be unavailable to the public for the duration of the works. We apologise for any inconvenience the temporary closure of archives causes readers; however, the greatly improved storage conditions and capacity will result in better storage and retrieval of the material once the works are completed. A full list of the archives closed during these works is available on our website www.nationalarchives.ie

The National Archives hopes that the improvement works will continue in the Four Courts facility in the future which may result in further record closures. Details of these works and any record closures will feature on our website.

The National Archives would like to acknowledge and thank the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Office of Public Works for their assistance in carrying out these works.

National Archives

20 February 2012

Photographs of improvements to the National Archives storage in the Four Courts building. Photographs show the storage areas before and after works.



Room 2C in the Four Courts. Steel shelving welded into concrete pillars was replaced with modern static shelving.





Room 2C in the Four Courts also contains concrete shelving. The whole area was painted with a sealant painted on the concrete shelves to prevent dust from the concrete damaging the archives.





The new static shelving allows for greater capacity as more shelves can be added to each bay and consequently more volumes can be stored per bay, increasing the capacity for each storage area.





In the Vaults, older static shelving was replaced with new shelving which will allow for better storage conditions for the archives and greater storage capacity in each vault.

