

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**AN CHOMHAIRLE UM AN gCARTLANN NÁISIÚNTA**

**Annual Report 2018**

**Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2018**

## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Annual Report 2018**

#### **1. Introduction**

This report covers the period of 2018. The current Council was appointed in July 2017, and held its first meeting on 25 October 2017, with 2018 representing its first full year in operation. This report notes the continued challenges facing the National Archives with regard to its statutory obligations. We also note the impact of recent legislation such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), augmented by provisions in the Data Protection Act, 2018, as well as the National Archives (Amendment) Act, 2018. This report also acknowledges the range of services and work undertaken during the year, including the relaunch of the website, ongoing work on the decanting of material from the warehouse, and the provision of digital access to archival records of the State. It ends by echoing some of the concerns of previous reports on staffing levels, lack of suitable storage space, the absence of a comprehensive formal records management policy for the State sector and, in particular, the absence of a system to acquire and archive born digital and hybrid records. Immediate attention must be paid to resourcing and implementing a formal system for archiving, preserving and providing select access to contemporary born-digital records, otherwise there is a significant risk to Ireland's ability to preserve the public record.

#### **2. Establishment and functions of the National Archives Advisory Council**

The National Archives Advisory Council was first established in January 1987, its principal function being to advise the Taoiseach, now the relevant Minister (currently the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan T.D.) in the exercise of her powers under the National Archives Act, 1986 and on all matters affecting archives and their use by the public. Under the Local Government Act of 1994 and the Harbours Act of 1996, the Council may also advise the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on any matters affecting local archives and harbour board archives respectively.

In particular, the Council advises on issues of policy relating to management, staffing and accommodation of the National Archives, the disposal of records by government

departments and other public bodies, the transfer of departmental records to the National Archives for preservation as archives, the acquisition of archives from other sources, the availability of archives for public inspection, the preservation of archives and the services provided by the National Archives to members of the public.

The core function of the National Archives is the care and preservation of the records of government and the provision of access to those archives. The function is legislated for in the National Archives Act, 1986, and as amended under the National Archives (Amendment) Act, 2018. The main provisions of the Act regarding departmental records are summarized as follows:

- All departmental records must be preserved, unless their destruction is authorized in writing by the Director of the National Archives or another officer of the National Archives designated by the Director for the purpose (Section 6 of the Regulations, 1989).
- In general, all Departmental records which are more than 30 years old must be transferred to the National Archives Act, 1986. Those records deemed appropriate by the Minister and relevant government minister which are more than 20 years old under the provisions of the National Archives (Amendment) Act, 2018 will also be transferred. Particular records may be retained by Departments and/or be withheld from public inspection only if they are covered by certificates stating either:
  - That they are in regular use in a Department or are required in connection with its administration, or
  - That making them available for inspection by the public would/might:
    - Be contrary to the public interest, or
    - Constitute a breach of statutory duty, or a breach of good faith on the ground that they contain information supplied in confidence, or
    - Cause distress or danger to living persons on the grounds that they contain information about individuals, or would or might be likely to lead to an action for damages for defamation.

### 3 Membership and Secretary

All members of the National Archives Advisory Council serve *pro bono* - free of charge. The Council costs nothing. The historians, archivists, specialists and users on the Council give of their time and expertise to advise the Minister, inform policy, and to improve the situation of the National Archives and that of archives generally in Ireland. The members are listed below, and were appointed on 19 July 2017:

Chair: The Hon. Mr Justice John Hedigan.

Secretary to the Council: Mr Patrick Guinan, National Archives.

Dr Ciara Breathnach (Irish Manuscripts Commission)

John Grenham

Dr Natalie Harrower

Kieran Hoare

Stephen Mac Eoin

Brian McGee

Dr Hiram Morgan (Irish Manuscripts Commission)

Dr Elizabeth Mullins

Catriona Mulcahy

Michael Nolan

Professor Deirdre Raftery

### 4 Annual Report

Section 21 of the National Archives Act, 1986, requires the National Archives Advisory Council to submit its report to the Minister who must then lay it before each House of the Oireachtas.

While the act does not stipulate a minimum meeting schedule the Council set an ambitious work programme and met on four occasions: Wednesday 17 January; Wednesday 25 April; Wednesday 4 July and Wednesday 24 October 2018. In order to further the work of the Council it was decided to form three priority **Working Groups** to examine the issues and inform best practice. These three areas are digitization, advocacy and GDPR.

## **Digitization**

This working group has looked at the issue of access to born digital archives as well as the provision of surrogate copies of analogue material. As noted in earlier reports of the Council, digital accessibility is an area of interest to researchers, and demand has grown recently. Recent projects have shown that digitization provides increased access to archival material to a range of citizens for a variety of purposes, and it also reflects the changing nature of archival research-in a digital age. The need for good metadata to ensure that digital records are searchable and useful to researchers was noted. The group has also looked at means of unlocking funding, and examined workflows to make digital content accessible. The group is looking at a best practice national policy and suggesting that a dedicated team or unit should be established in the National Archives to systematically expand access to digital content from archival sources. It is also noted that archival support needs to be available for the full cycle of digital record retention, including how they are stored, preserved and accessed. Records will be arriving primarily in born-digital form in the very near future, so a full system must be put in place to test and anticipate this as soon as possible.

## **Advocacy**

The advocacy working group has discussed outreach and how to keep the public involved in all the different projects going on. The need for the National Archives to have a public persona was emphasized, as well as the need to utilize the new building works to project the National Archives as a public space in a central location. Collaborative projects with the Royal Irish Academy on the Centenary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the proposed joint project with the Houses of the Oireachtas to digitize their records, and the Beyond 2022 project in conjunction with the Irish Manuscripts Commission, and School of Histories and Humanities, TCD all highlight the increased visibility of the National Archives. The advocacy sub-group are seeking ways to build on the improved visibility of the National Archives through increased public engagement, education and outreach.

## **GDPR**

The GDPR sub-group has noted the increased workload associated with requests to destroy records. Guidance has been issued by the National Archives on how departments should

handle records in the light of recent legislation, and this sub-group would strongly endorse this guidance to departments and other agencies. This guidance is available at [http://www.nationalarchives.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2018/05/20180319GDPRNAA\\_GuidanceNote\\_3.pdf](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2018/05/20180319GDPRNAA_GuidanceNote_3.pdf).

At a time of fake news and challenges to the public record the Council will support the National Archives in its efforts to develop services that demonstrate the integrity, accuracy and authenticity of the public record, and that these are based on professional and ethical standards and expertise.

### Retention of Records Bill

On 6 April 2018 the Chairman received correspondence from Richard Bruton T.D., Minister for Education and Skills in relation to the current text of the Retention of Records Bill. The letter outlined the timeline of consultative and legislative activity in regard to proposals to retain certain records of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse, the Residential Institutions Redress Board and the Residential Institutions Review Committee. The Chairman responded to this letter on 2 May 2018 after a full discussion of the letter at a meeting of the Council on 25 April. The Council noted the guarantee of confidentiality that was given to the parties involved as well as the very strong public interest in relation to the preservation of records that are of undoubted historical value. In balancing these two interests the Council is aware of the recent Army Pensions Records project, which made available information given under the promise of confidentiality by the State after a lengthy period of time, and considers that this is a precedent in this matter. The Council therefore expressed the strong view that these records of the above inquiry should not be destroyed. The Council is in agreement that these records should be deemed departmental records of the Department of Education and Skills, which on the dissolution of the bodies shall be transferred to the National Archives, and suggested that consideration be given for a closure period of 100 years, which is considered to be a two generation gap and is the established practice with census records and certain records of a personal or confidential nature. Once unsealed, these records should be subject to strict protocols to ensure access only for legitimate scholarly research and to respect full anonymity of parties. The rights of survivors to access their personal information was not part of our ambit, but in our discussion the Council recommended that in future, Commissions of Inquiry of this nature should set clear

guidelines in its methodology and inform parties on how it is proposed to treat enquiry records at the outset.

#### Role of the Director on the Council

The Council would like to commend the director for his regular and comprehensive updates at every meeting in 2018 on the operational challenges facing the archives as well as the updates on longer term infrastructure projects. On several occasions, the director took the opportunity to have senior staff within the archives present updates on specific topics, for example on GDPR by Senior Archivist Niamh McDonnell. The director also facilitated tours of the NA facilities in Bishop Street for the incoming NAAC members which were very informative and appreciated by the council members.

#### Matters for Consideration

Looking forward to the future, matters under consideration by the Council at the end of 2018 include the public spaces masterplan is part of the 'Project Ireland 2040' report. The Council was involved in consultations with John McLoughlin Architects in relation to proposals in relation to the National Archives under the framework. The Council will endeavour to support the proposed framework in the years ahead, and fully endorses the goal of increased storage capacity of the National Archives by two-thirds. This will enable the progression to the 20 year rule, and will support the transformation of ancillary services for exhibitions, education and engagement by the visiting public.

It is to be noted, however, that the National Archives remains critically understaffed. The move to the 20 year rule is contingent upon sufficient resources being available to the National Archives to accept increased volumes of records and prepare them for public release. It should also be noted that the National Archives currently has no capability in terms of ICT infrastructure or digital records specialisation for access to electronic records. The efforts of staff to meet the enormous challenges facing a modern National Archives is to be acknowledged, but without sufficient government support for the functions of the service we will continue to lag far behind our EU partners in this regard.

## **5. Assent**

The members of the National Archives Advisory Council hereby, on 14 August 2019, assent to the annual report of 2018.

The Hon. Mr Justice John Hedigan (Chairman)

Dr Hiram Morgan

Dr Ciara Breathnach

Kieran Hoare

Dr Natalie Harrower

John Grenham

Dr Elizabeth Mullins

Catriona Mulcahy

Michael Nolan

Stephen Mac Eoin

Brian McGee

Prof Deirdre Raftery



# AN CHOMHAIRLE UM AN gCARTLANN NÁISIÚNTA

## Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2018

### 1. Réamhrá

An bhliain 2018 an tréimhse atá faoi chaibidil sa tuarascáil seo. I mí Iúil 2017 a ceapadh an Chomhairle reatha. Tionóladh an chéad chruinniú an 25 Deireadh Fómhair 2017 agus ba í an bhliain 2018 an chéad bhliain iomlán don Chomhairle reatha i mbun feidhme. Déantar trácht sa tuarascáil ar an ábhar dúshláin atá go leanúnach roimh an gCartlann Náisiúnta maidir lena hoibleagáidí reachtúla a chomhlíonadh. Díritear aird chomh maith ar a dtagann i gceist mar gheall ar reachtaíocht le tamall anuas, mar shampla an Rialachán Ginearálta maidir le Cosaint Sonraí (GDPR), lena dtreisítear faoi fhorálacha áirithe den Acht um Chosaint Sonraí, 2018, chomh maith leis an Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta (Leasú), 2018. Déantar tagairt sa tuarascáil seo freisin don réimse seirbhísí agus don obair a rinneadh i rith na bliana, lena n-áirítear an láithreán gréasáin a athsheoladh, obair leanúnach maidir le hábhar a scaoileadh as an stór taisce agus deis a thabhairt taifid chartlainne de chuid an Stáit a thapú ar mhodh digiteach. Luaitear mar fhocal scoir, ábhar buartha mar a luaitear i dtuarascálacha faoi bhlianta roimhe seo, maidir le leibhéal foirne, spás stórála oiriúnach a bheith gann, gan aon pholasaí foirmeálta cuimsitheach a bheith i bhfeidhm maidir leis an mbainistíocht ar thaifid in earnáil an Stáit agus, go mór mór, gan aon chóras a bheith ar bun maidir le taifid atá digiteach ó thús nó croschineálach a éadail agus a choinneáil i dtaisce. Ní mór díriú gan mhoill ar chóras foirmeálta a leagan amach agus a chur i bhfeidhm maidir le taifid chomhaimseartha atá digiteach ó thús a chur i dtaisce ar bhonn cartlannaíochta, a chaomhnú agus rochtain ar leith a chur ar fáil nó tá baol suntasach ann nach féidir taifead poiblí na hÉireann á chaomhnú.

### 2. Bunú na Comhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta agus feidhmeanna na Comhairle

I mí Eanáir 1987 a cuireadh an Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta ar bun den chéad uair agus é de phríomhfheidhm ar na comhaltaí comhairle a chur ar an Taoiseach, ar an Aire lena mbaineann faoin tráth seo (Josepha Madigan, an tAire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta i láthair na huaire) maidir le feidhmiú a cuid cumhachtaí faoin Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta 1986 agus maidir le gach ní eile a mbíonn baint acu le

cúrsaí cartlannaíochta agus le húsáid na gcartlann ag an bpobal. Faoin Acht Rialtais Áitiúil, 1994 agus faoin Acht Cuanta, 1996, is féidir leis an gComhairle freisin comhairle a chur ar an Aire Comhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil agus ar an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara faoi nithe a bhaineann le cartlann áitiúil nó le cartlann bhord cuain faoi seach.

Cuireann an Chomhairle, ach go háirithe, lón comhairle ar fáil maidir le polasaithe i ndáil le cúrsaí bainistíochta, foirne agus cóiríochta sa Chartlann Náisiúnta, diúscairt taifead ag ranna rialtais agus comhlachtaí poiblí eile, aistriú thaifid roinne go dtí an Chartlann Náisiúnta le coinneáil i dtaisce mar ábhar cartlainne, an éadail ar ábhar cartlainne a ó fhoinsí eile, ábhar cartlainne a chur ar fáil lena scrúdú ag an bpobal, ábhar cartlainne a chaomhnú agus na seirbhísí a chuireann an Chartlann Náisiúnta ar fáil don phobal.

Is í príomhfheidhm a leagtar ar an gCartlann Náisiúnta cúram a dhéanamh de thaifid an rialtais agus iad a chaomhnú agus deis a thabhairt an t-ábhar cartlainne sin a cheadú. Déantar foráil don fheidhm san Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta, 1986 arna leasú leis an Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta (Leasú), 2018. Tugtar cuntas achoimre ar phríomhfhórlacha an Achta maidir le taifid ranna rialtais mar seo a leanas:

- Ní foláir taifid uile na ranna rialtais a chaomhnú mura n-údaraíonn Stiúrthóir an Cartlainne Náisiúnta, nó oifigeach eile de chuid na Cartlainne Náisiúnta arna ainmniú ag an Stiúrthóir chun na críche sin, taifead faoi leith a scrios (Alt 6 de na Rialacháin, 1989).
- Go ginearálta, ní foláir taifid uile na ranna rialtais is sine ná 30 bliain a aistriú go dtí an Chartlann Náisiúnta. Déanfar chomh maith, faoi fhorálacha an Achta um Chartlann Náisiúnta (Leasú), 2018, na taifid sin a aistriú is sine ná 20 bliain a mheasann an tAire agus an t-aire rialtais lena mbaineann a bheith oiriúnach le haistriú. Ní féidir taifid faoi leith a choimeád i Roinn agus/ná a choinneáil óna scrúdú ag duine den phobal ach amháin má thagann siad faoi scáth dheimhniú ina luaitear:
  - go mbíonn siad i ngnáthúsáid sa Roinn nó go dteastaíonn siad i ndáil le riaradh na Roinne, nó
  - dá gcuirfí ar fáil iad lena n-iniúchadh ag an bpobal:
    - go mbeadh sin nó go bhféadfadh go mbeadh sin ar neamhréir le leas an phobail, nó

- gur sárú dualgais reachtúil nó sárú ar mheon macánta a bheadh ann nó a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann ar an ábhar go bhfuil eolas ar fáil iontu a tugadh i modh rúin, nó
- gur cúis tochsail nó contúirte do dhaoine beo a bheadh ann nó a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann ar an ábhar go bhfuil eolas ar fáil iontu faoi dhaoine faoi leith, nó go mbeadh nó gur dhócha go mbeadh sin ina ábhar caingne le haghaidh damáistí mar gheall ar chlúmhilladh.

### **3 Na Comhaltaí agus an Rúnaí**

Déanann comhaltaí uile na Comhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta fónamh *pro bono* - gan táille. Níl aon chostas ag gabháil leis an gComhairle. Cuireann na staraithe, cartlannaithe, saineolaithe agus úsáideoirí ar an gComhairle a gcuid ama agus saineolais ar fáil d'fhonn comhairle a chur ar an Aire, lón eolais a chur ar fáil maidir le ceapadh beartais, agus feabhas a chur ar chás na Cartlainne Náisiúnta agus ar chúrsaí cartlannaíochta in Éirinn go ginearálta. Ar an 19 Iúil 2017 a ceapadh comhaltaí na comhairle a dtugtar liosta na gcuid ainmneacha anseo síos:

Cathaoirleach: An Breitheamh Onórach John Hedigan

Rúnaí na Comhairle: Patrick Guinan Uasal, An Chartlann Náisiúnta

An Dr Ciara Breathnach (Coimisiún Lámhscríbhinní na hÉireann)

John Grenham

An Dr Natalie Harrower

Kieran Hoare

Stephen Mac Eoin

Brian McGee

An Dr Hiram Morgan (Coimisiún Lámhscríbhinní na hÉireann)

An Dr Elizabeth Mullins

Catriona Mulcahy

Michael Nolan

An tOllamh Deirdre Raftery

#### 4 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

Faoi Alt 21 den Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta, 1986, ceanglaítear ar an gComhairle um Chartlann Náisiúnta an tuarascáil bhliantúil a chur faoi bhráid an Aire agus ní foláir don Aire ina dhiaidh sin an tuarascáil a leagan faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas.

Cé nach leagtar amach bunsceideal cruinnithe faoin acht, leag an Chomhairle amach clár oibre ardaidhmeannach agus tháinig le chéile ceithre huaire i rith na bliana: Dé Céadaoin an 17 Eanáir; Dé Céadaoin an 25 Aibreán; Dé Céadaoin an 4 Iúil agus Dé Céadaoin an 24 Deireadh Fómhair 2018. D'fhonn dlús breise le hobair na Comhairle a chur chun cinn, socraíodh trí cinn de **Mheithle Oibre** príomhthábhachta a chur ar bun a dhéanadh scrúdú ar cheisteanna faoi leith agus a chuirfeadh comhairle ar fáil maidir le modhanna oibre sárchleachtas. Is iad na réimsí den obair lena mbaineann na Meithle Oibre: digitiú, abhcóideacht agus an Rialachán Ginearálta maidir le Cosaint Sonraí.

#### Digitíú

Tá scrúdú á dhéanamh ag an meitheal oibre seo ar an gceist maidir le cead a thabhairt ábhar cartlainne atá digiteach ó thús a bhreathnú chomh maith le cóipeanna ionaid d'ábhar analógach a chur ar fáil. Mar a luaitear i dtuarascálacha na Comhairle roimhe seo, tá deis ar thaifid trí mhodhanna digiteacha ina ábhar spéise ag lucht taighde agus borradh mór le tamall anuas faoin éileamh ar a leithéid. Is léir ó thionscadail a cuireadh i gcrích le blianta beaga anuas gur áisiúla is féidir le réimse leathan de na saoránaigh ábhar cartlainne a thapú nuair a dhéantar digitiú air. Is léir freisin go bhfuil athrú ar mhodhanna taighde cartlainne ó thosaigh an ré digiteach. Tugtar chun aire an gá atá le meiteashonraí dea-chóirithe ionas go gcinntítear gur féidir cuardach a dhéanamh ar fud na dtaifead digiteach agus go mbíonn siad úsáideach ag an lucht taighde. Tá iniúchadh déanta ag an meitheal oibre freisin ar mhodhanna inar féidir cistí a aimsiú chomh maith le sruthanna oibre d'fhonn ábhar digiteach a chur ar fáil. Tá scrúdú á dhéanamh ag an meitheal ar an sárchleachtas maidir le polasaithe náisiúnta agus molta meitheal nó aonad faoi leith a chur ar bun sa Chartlann Náisiúnta dírithe ar fhairsingiú de réir córais ar an ábhar as foinsí cartlainne a mbíonn teacht air ar bhonn digiteach. Tugtar chun aire chomh maith gur gá cúnamh taca a bheith ar fáil do lucht cartlannaíochta i ndáil leis an gcoimeádaíocht iomlán ar thaifid dhigiteacha, iad a stóráil, iad a chaomhnú agus iad a thapú agus a bhreathnú. Go ríghairid, is i bhfoirm

digiteach-ó-thús is mó a bheidh taifid á gcur faoi bhráid agus ní mór córas lánchuimsitheach a chur ar bun chun ullmhú don mhodh oibre sin, agus tástáil a dhéanamh air, chomh luath agus is féidir.

### **Abhcóideacht**

Tá plé déanta ag an meitheal oibre maidir le habhcóideacht ar chúrsaí caidrimh agus ar bhealaí inar féidir spéis an phobail a choinneáil sna tionscadail éagsúla ar fad atá ar siúl. Leagadh béim ar an tábhacht atá leis an gCartlann Náisiúnta a theacht i láthair, le clú agus iomrá poiblí na Cartlainne agus leis obair foirgníochta nua a úsáid chun an Chartlann Náisiúnta a chur chun cinn mar spás poiblí i suíomh lárnach. Is léir aird bhreise ar an gCartlann Náisiúnta de bharr a theacht i láthair níos tréine le tionscadail i gcomhar - in éineacht le hAcadamh Ríoga na hÉireann maidir le comóradh Céad Bliain na Roinne Gnóthaí Eachtracha, tionscadal beartaithe i gcomhar le Tithe an Oireachtais maidir le digitíú ar thaifid agus an tionscadal Ó 2022 amach i gcomhar le Coimisiún Lámhscríbhinní na hÉireann agus Scoil na Staire agus na nDaonnachtaí i gColáiste na Tríonóide. Tá an foghrúpa abhcóideachta ag féachaint le cur le feiceálacht na Cartlainne Náisiúnta trí bhearta breise caidrimh phoiblí, oideachais agus teacht i láthair.

### **GDPR**

Tá tugtha chun aire ag an bhfoghrúpa GDPR go bhfuil curtha leis an ualach oibre a eascraíonn ó iarratais maidir le taifid a scrios. Tá treoir eisiithe ag an gCartlann Náisiúnta faoin modh inar cheart do na ranna déileáil le taifid i bhfianaise athruithe ar an reachtaíocht le tamall anuas agus seasann an foghrúpa seo go mór leis an gcomhairle sin ar na ranna rialtais agus ar ghníomhaireachtaí eile.

Tá teacht ar an lón treorach ag

[http://www.nationalarchives.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2018/05/20180319GDPRNAA\\_Guidanc\\_eNote\\_3.pdf](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2018/05/20180319GDPRNAA_Guidanc_eNote_3.pdf)

Tráth a bhfuil trácht ar bhréagnuacht agus amhras á chaitheamh ar an taifead poiblí, seasfaidh an Chomhairle leis an gCartlann Náisiúnta sna hiarrachtaí seirbhísí a thabhairt i bhfeidhm lena léirítear iontaofacht, cruinneas agus údarás maidir leis an taifead poiblí agus sin bunaithe ar ghairmiúlacht, ar chaighdeán eitice agus ar shaineolas.

## An Bille um Thaifid a Choimeád

Ar an 6 Aibreán 2018, tháinig comhfhreagras chuig an gCathaoirleach ó Risteard de Briotún TD, an tAire Oideachais agus Scileanna, i ndáil leis an téacs reatha den Bille um Thaifid a Choimeád. Leagtar amach sa litir sin an tráthchlár maidir le bearta comhairliúcháin agus rith reachtaíochta i ndáil le taifid áirithe de chuid an Choimisiúin chun Drochúsáid Leanáí a Fhiosrú, an Bhoird um Shásamh i leith Foras Cónaithe agus an Choiste Athbhreithnithe um Shásamh i leith Foras Cónaithe a choimeád. Chuir an Cathaoirleach freagra ar an litir sin an 2 Bealtaine 2018 tar éis don Chomhairle plé iomlán a dhéanamh ar an litir ag cruinniú an 25 Aibreán. Thug an Chomhairle chun aire gur tugadh ráthaíocht rúndachta do na páirtithe agus gurb é leas mór an phobail taifid a bhfuil fiúntas doshéanta staire leo a chaomhnú. I ndáil le cothromaíocht idir an dá leas sin, tá aird ag an gComhairle ar an tionscadal le tamall anuas maidir le Taifid Phinsin an Airm, trínar cuireadh faisnéis, a tugadh faoi gheallúint maidir le rúndacht, ar fáil tar éis achar fada ama, agus meastar gur fasach sin i ndáil leis an ábhar faoi chaibidil. Chuir an Chomhairle in iúl dá bhrí sin go rabhthas go láidir den tuairim nár cheart taifid an fhiosrúcháin thuasluaite a scrios. Aontaíonn an Chomhairle gur chóir a mheas gur taifid roinne de chuid na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna na taifid seo a dhéanfar a aistriú, ar na comhlachtaí a scor, chuig an gCartlann Náisiúnta, agus moladh gur chóir smaoineamh ar thréimhse diamhrachta 100 bliain, tréimhse a bheith cothrom le himeacht dhá ghlúin, faoi mar atá de ghnáthnós maidir le taifid daonáirimh agus le taifid áirithe de chineál pearsanta nó príobháideach. Nuair a bhaintear an séala de na taifid seo, ba cheart go dtiocfaidís faoi réir phrótacal géar ionas go gcinntítear gur i ndáil le taighde scoláireachta amháin a cheadaítear teacht a bheith orthu agus go mbíonn na páirtithe ar fad anaithnid i gcónaí. Níor tháinig ceart marthanóra faisnéis phearsanta a aimsiú i gceist maidir le scóip na Comhairle ach d'eascair ón bplé a rinneadh ag an gcruinniú moladh go dtarlódh as seo amach go leagfaí síos treoirlínte soiléire mar chuid de na modhanna oibre ag Coimisiúin Fiosrúcháin den chineál seo agus go gcuirfí in iúl do na páirtithe ó thús an dóigh ina bhfuil leagtha amach déileáil le taifid an fhiosrúcháin.

## Ról an Stiúrthóra maidir leis an gComhairle

Is mian leis an gComhairle an stiúrthóir a mholadh maidir leis na tuairiscí cuimsitheacha a cuireadh ar fáil go rialta ag gach cruinniú i rith na bliana 2018 faoi na réimsí deacrachta maidir le cúrsaí oibriúcháin atá le sárú ag an gCartlann chomh maith le tuairisc ar an gcás is

deireanaí maidir le tionscadail infreastruchtúir fhadtéarmacha. Thapaigh an Stiúrthóir, níos mó ná uair amháin, an deis duine sinsearach d'fhoireann na Cartlainne a thabhairt i láthair chun tuairisc a thabhairt faoi nithe faoi leith, mar shampla Niamh McDonnell, Cartlannaí Sinsearach, maidir le cúrsaí GDPR. Shocraigh an Stiúrthóir freisin cuairt ar áiseanna na Cartlainne Náisiúnta i Sráid an Easpaig do chomhaltaí nua na Comhairle a chuir go mór le heolas agus tuiscint na gcomhaltaí agus gníomh a raibh siad buíoch as.

### Ceisteanna le Tabhairt san Áireamh

Le súil chun cinn ar an am atá romhainn, áirítear ar na nithe atá faoi mheas ag an gComhairle ag deireadh na bliana 2018 an máistirphlean maidir le spásanna poiblí mar chuid den tuarascáil faoi 'Éire 2040'. Bhí an Chomhairle páirteach i mbearta comhairliúcháin le comhlacht ailtireachta John McLoughlin. Féachfaidh an Chomhairle leis an gcreatlach bheartaithe a chur chun cinn i rith na mblianta seo romhainn agus aontaítear go hiomlán leis an gcuispóir dhá thrian breise a chur le hacmhainn stórála na Cartlainne Náisiúnta. Is dá réir sin a bheifear in ann dul ar aghaidh leis an riail 20 bliain agus seirbhísí breise maidir le taispeántais, cúrsaí oideachais agus caidreamh leis an bpobal a chur chun cinn.

Ní mór a thabhairt chun aire, ina ainneoin sin, go bhfuil géarghanntanas foirne i gceist i gcónaí maidir leis an gCartlann Náisiúnta. Tá athrú go dtí riail 20 bliain ag brath ar dóthain acmhainní a bheith ar fáil don Chartlann Náisiúnta ionas gur féidir glacadh le hualaigh taifead níos mó agus iad a ullmhú le cur ar fáil don phobal. Ba chóir a thabhairt chun aire freisin nach bhfuil inniúlacht faoi leith i ndáil le hinfreastruchtúr TEC ná saineolas maidir le taifid dhigitecha a bheadh ar fáil mar thaifid leictreonacha sa Chartlann Náisiúnta san am i láthair. Ní mór dúthracht agus dícheall an lucht foirne a thréaslú leo agus iad ag féachaint leis na deacrachtaí a chuirtear roimh Chartlann Náisiúnta nua-aimseartha a shárú ach mura gcuireann an rialtas cúnamh dóthanach ar fáil maidir le feidhmeanna na seirbhíse, beifear i bhfad chun deiridh i gcónaí i gcomparáid lenár gcomhghleacaithe san AE.

## **5. Aontú**

Aontaíonn leis seo, an 14 Lúnasa 2019, comhaltaí na Comhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta, le tuarascáil bhliantúil na bliana 2018.

An Breitheamh Onórach John Hedigan (Cathaoirleach)

An Dr Hiram Morgan

An Dr Ciara Breathnach

Kieran Hoare

An Dr Natalie Harrower

John Grenham

An Dr Elizabeth Mullins

Catriona Mulcahy

Michael Nolan

Stephen Mac Eoin

Brian McGee

An tOll. Deirdre Raftery