



## NATIONAL ARCHIVES ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Annual Report 2021 – June 2022

#### 1. Introduction

Section 21 of the National Archives Act, 1986, requires the NAAC to submit its report to the Minister who must then lay it before each House of the Oireachtas. This report covers the 18-month period from January 2021 to June 2022, which marks the end of the current board's term. The current Council was appointed in July 2017, and held its first meeting 25 October 2017, with 2021 representing its fourth full year in operation. This report notes the continued challenges facing the National Archives of Ireland (NA) regarding its statutory obligations. 2021 saw the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on operations and access to holdings, as well as the phased re-opening of services in line with government public health guidelines.

The Council note in particular the excellent work of the Director of the National Archives and the implementation of her planned strategy for the NA. Replenishment of staff numbers in the current climate is particularly welcome given the increased demands on the National Archives with the 20-year rule. The high visibility of the NA in commemorative events such as the *Treaty Exhibition and the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland* are remarkable, especially when pandemic-related restrictions are taken into account.

Concerns remain, in particular, in relation to the planned building of an extension to the National Archives and the infrastructure for the management of digital holdings, and we will endeavour to support the efforts of the Director in this direction.

**Sráid an Easpaig, Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 DF85**  
Bishop Street, Dublin 8, D08 DF85

**Chair**  
Mr. Justice John Hedigan

**Council Members**  
Dr. Ciara Breathnach; Mr. John Grenham; Dr. Natalie Harrower; Mr. Kieran Hoare; Comdt. Stephen Mac Eoin;  
Mr. Brian McGee; Dr. Hiram Morgan; Ms. Catriona Mulcahy; Dr. Elizabeth Mullins; Mr. Michael Nolan and  
Professor Deirdre Raftery

## 1.1 Membership

All members of the NAAC serve pro bono. The historians, archivists, specialists and users on the Council give of their time and expertise in the hope of improving 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.

The Hon Mr. Justice John Hedigan (Chairman)

Dr Ciara Breathnach (Irish Manuscripts Commission nominee)

John Grenham

Dr Natalie Harrower

Kieran Hoare

Comdt Stephen Mac Eoin

Brian McGee

Dr Hiram Morgan (Irish Manuscripts Commission nominee)

Catriona Mulcahy

Dr Elizabeth Mullins

Michael Nolan

Professor Deirdre Raftery

Secretary to the Council, Mr Brian Bermingham, National Archives (to November 2021), then Simon Willmott, National Archives (March 2022).

## 2. Meetings and Report of the Council

The NAAC met on four occasions in 2021: Monday 25 January; Tuesday 13 April, Wednesday 15 September and Tuesday 23 November. Three meetings were held in 2022, on Tuesday 15 February, Tuesday 26 April and Wednesday 22 June. All meetings apart from the last one were held online in line with government guidance. The NAAC have continued to receive presentations from staff at the National Archives to help provide a better understanding of the work of the different sections. These have included presentations by the Public Services Division and Corporate Services.

In April 2021 the NAAC had a presentation from the Director of the National Archives on the five point strategic plan entitled *Shaping our Future in the Information Age, 2021-2025*, which has informed much of the discussion at our meetings. These goals reflect many of the issues raised by the NAAC in our last Annual Report in the areas of Advocacy, GDPR and Digitisation issues. The five goals are to:

1. Ensure that services are relevant and promote best international practice
2. Develop digital services to enable better access to archives in our custody, enhance public service delivery and increase public engagement through an enhanced education and outreach programme
3. Secure and preserve the records of the state for current and future generations
4. Develop capacity to be a leader in the digital age
5. Strengthen the institution to be an innovative, responsive and dynamic National Archives

The NAAC fully endorse *Shaping our Future in the Information Age, 2021-2025* and have endeavoured to support its implementation and outcomes in every way it can.

To that end the Chair met Minister Martin in June 2021 and outlined a range of concerns the Council had in terms of staffing, digital capacity and ability to deliver on its statutory position, as well as pressing for a review of the National Archives Act [1986]. He also sought the establishment of a high-level review group to examine the role and position of the National Archives across government. We note the Public Services Review undertaken on the National Archives and look forward to seeing its recommendations.

The NAAC recognizes and welcomes the high public profile which the NA has developed on a number of fronts over the period covered by this report. This includes use of social media platforms, online presentations by National Archives staff and a number of public events. Noteworthy among these were:

- ‘Protecting the Public Record: models of international best practice’ (24 June 2021)
- The NAI 2021 Commemoration Programme including a number of public talks; the Treaty Exhibition held in London, Dublin and a number of regional centres in partnership with Local Authorities; the work of artist-in-residence John Beattie.
- An in-person and online seminar entitled ‘The National Archives – the Memory of the Nation’ by our Chair Mr. Justice John Hedigan with responses from members of the NAAC (12 May 2022).

- 'Public Record Office of Ireland: The Story of a Building' launched by Minister Catherine Martin (30 June 2022).

Other work by the NAAC includes a letter to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on concerns around the resourcing of Local Authority Archives. In April 2022 in relation to the proposed establishment of the National Centre for Research and Remembrance the Council agreed the following statement:

The NAAC welcomes the recent announcement of plans to create a National Centre for Research and Remembrance to honour all those who were resident in Mother and Baby Homes, Industrial Schools, Reformatories, Magdalen Laundries and related institutions. The NAAC also welcomes the central role given to the National Archive of Ireland in the professional management of the archival records linked to the proposed repository. It notes the need for the allocation of additional resources to support this as part of the planning process.

The NAAC wish to note with sadness the passing of Gregory O'Connor, archivist. His many years of service to the National Archives and as an advocate of archives is well remembered by us all. It notes the retirement of Tom Quinlan, Keeper. We would like to acknowledge the work of Brian Bermingham as secretary to the NAAC and wish him well in his new role, as well as thanking his replacement Simon Willmott for supporting the work of the Council. Finally, we would like to thank the Director of the National Archives of Ireland, Orlaith McBride, for her leadership, professionalism and vision, and the energy and enthusiasm she has brought to the NA and to the work of the Council since her appointment.

### 3. Conclusion

The NAAC remain concerned around issues of capacity and staffing when compared with other national cultural institutions in Ireland as well as international comparators. We note the continued exemplary work of the staff of the National Archives, the leadership of its Director and the vision outlined in the National Archives Strategic Plan. We also welcome staffing improvements, increased capacity and the enhancement of the public role of the National Archives within the cultural life of the nation. We would also highlight the importance of progress in the Archives Repository Project, the development of capacity to manage born digital records, the implementation of recommendations from the Public Services Review once completed, the primacy of a statutory framework fit for purpose to underpin the work of the National Archives, and the provision of professional archivists and records managers within all government departments and statutory bodies.

## 4.1 Assent

The members of the National Archives Advisory Council hereby, on 13 July 2022, assent in the annual report of 2021-2022.

The Hon. Mr Justice John Hedigan (Chairman)

Dr Ciara Breathnach (Irish Manuscripts Commission nominee)

Dr Hiram Morgan (Irish Manuscripts Commission nominee)

John Grenham

Dr Natalie Harrower

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Dr Elizabeth Mullins

Michael Nolan

Professor Deirdre Raftery

## Appendix

### Function and Remit of the National Archives Advisory Council (NAAC)

The NAAC was first established in January 1987, its principal function being to advise the Taoiseach, now the relevant Minister (currently Minister Catherine Martin, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and The Media) in the exercise of her powers under the National Archives Act, 1986 and as amended by the National Archives (Amendment) Act of 2018. It also advises 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 conservation 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 summarised as follows:

- All departmental records must be preserved, unless their destruction is authorised 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:
  - o That they are in regular use in a Department or are required in connection with its administration, or
  - o 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

# An Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta

## Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2021 – Meitheamh 2022

### 1. Intreoir

Ceanglaíonn Alt 21 den Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta, 1986, ar an gComhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta a tuarascáil a chur faoi bhráid an Aire a chaithfidh í a leagan faoi bhráid gach Tí de chuid an Oireachtas. Sa tuarascáil seo clúdaítear an tréimhse 18 mí ó mhí Eanáir 2021 go Meitheamh 2022, arb é sin deireadh théarma an bhoird reatha. Ceapadh an Chomhairle reatha i mí Iúil 2017, agus bhí a céad chruinniú ag an gComhairle ar an 25 Deireadh Fómhair 2017, agus ba é 2021 an ceathrú bliain ionmlán i bhfeidhm aici. Sa tuarascáil seo déantar cur síos ar na dúshláin leanúnacha a chuirtear roimh Chartlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann maidir lena dualgais reachtúla. Chonacthas in 2021 tionchar leanúnach phaindéim COVID-19 ar oibríochtaí agus rochtain ar na bailiúcháin, chomh maith le hathoscailt céimníthe seirbhísí i gcomhréir le treoirlínte sláinte poiblí an rialtais.

Thug an Chomhairle faoi deara go háirithe sár-obair Stiúrthóir an Chartlann Náisiúnta agus cur i bhfeidhm a straitéis phleanáilte don Chartlann. Fáiltítear go háirithe roimh líon na mball foirne a athsholáthru sa timpeallacht reatha i bhfianaise na n-éileamh méadaithe ar an gCartlann Náisiúnta leis an riail 20 bliain. Tá feiceálacht iontach ag an gCartlann Náisiúnta in imeachtaí comórtha ar nós *Taispeántas an Chonartha agus Maoinchiste Annála Samhalta na hÉireann*, go háirithe nuair a chuirtear na srianta a bhain leis an bpaindéim san áireamh.

Tá imní fós ann, áfach, go háirithe maidir leis an tógáil atá beartaithe le síneadh a chur leis an gCartlann Náisiúnta agus leis an mbonneagar chun bailiúcháin dhigiteacha a bhainistiú, agus déanfaimid ár ndícheall tacú le hiarrachtaí an Stiúrthóra maidir leis sin.

## 1.1 Ballraíocht

Oibríonn baill den Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta ar bhonn pro bono. Cuireann na staraithe, na cartlannaithe, na speisialtóirí agus na húsáideoirí ar an gComhairle a gcuid ama agus saineolais ar fáil leis an dóchas go bhfeabhsófar cás an Chartlann Náisiúnta agus cás na gcartlann go ginearálta in Éirinn. Seo a leanas na baill agus ceapadh iad ar an 19 Iúil 2017.

An Breitheamh Onórach John Hedigan (Cathaoirleach)

An Dr Ciara Breathnach (Ainmní Choimisiún Lámhscríbhinní na hÉireann)

John Grenham

An Dr Natalie Harrower

Kieran Hoare

An Cft Stephen Mac Eoin

Brian McGee

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Catriona Mulcahy

An Dr Elizabeth Mullins

Michael Nolan

An tOllamh Deirdre Raftery

Rúnaí na Comhairle, Brian Bermingham, An Chartlann Náisiúnta (go mí na Samhna 2021), ansin Simon Willmott, An Chartlann Náisiúnta (Márta 2022).

## 2. Cruinnithe agus Tuarascáil na Comhairle

Bhuail an Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta le chéile ceithre huaire in 2021: Dé Luain, an 25 Eanáir, Dé Máirt, an 13 Aibreán, Dé Céadaoin, an 15 Meán Fómhair agus Dé Máirt, an 23 Samhain. Reáchtáladh ceithre chruiinniú in 2022, Dé Máirt, an 15 Feabhra, Dé Máirt, an 26 Aibreán agus Dé Céadaoin, an 22 Meitheamh. Reachtáladh gach cruiinniú, seachas an ceann deireanach ar líne de réir comhairle rialtais. D'fhreastail an Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta ar chur i láthair foirne

sa Chartlann Náisiúnta chun tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar obair rannóga éagsúla. Bhí cur i láthair Rannóg na Seirbhísí Poiblí agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha i measc na léirithe sin.

I mí Aibreáin 2021 d'fhreastail an Chomhairle ar chur i láthair Stiúrthóir an Chartlann Náisiúnta faoin bplean straitéiseach cúig phointe dar teideal *Shaping our Future in the Information Age, 2021-2025*, a rinne eolas do chuid mhór den phlé ag ár gcrúinnithe. Léiríonn na spriocanna seo go leor de na ceisteanna a d'ardaigh an Chomhairle inár dTuarascáil Bhliantúil dheireanach maidir le habhcóideacht, RGCS agus digitíu. Seo a leanas na cúig sprioc:

1. A chinntíú go bhfuil seirbhísí iomchuí agus go gcuireann siad an cleachtas idirnáisiúnta is fearr chun cinn
2. Seirbhísí digiteacha a fhorbairt chun rochtain níos fearr a chumasú ar ábhar cartlainne atá á gcoimeád againn, seachadadh seirbhíse poiblí a fheabhsú agus rannpháirtíocht phoiblí a mhéadú trí chlár feabhsaithe oideachais agus for-rochtana
3. Taifid an stáit a choimeád agus a chaomhnú don ghlúin reatha agus do na glúnta atá le teacht
4. Acmhainn a fhorbairt le bheith mar cheannródaí san aois dhigiteach
5. An institiúid a neartú le bheith ina Cartlann Náisiúnta nuálach, fhreagrúil agus dhinimiciúil

Tacaíonn An Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta go hiomlán le *Shaping our Future in the Information Age, 2021-2025* agus tá gach iarracht déanta aici tacú lena chur i bhfeidhm agus lena thorthaí ar gach bealach is féidir.

Chuige sin bhuaile Cathaoirleach leis an Aire Martin i mí an Mheithimh 2021 agus thug sé cuntas ar raon ábhair imní a bhí ag an gComhairle maidir le soláthar foirne, acmhainn dhigiteach agus cumas chun a seasamh reachtúil a chomhlíonadh, chomh maith le hathbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta [1986.]. D'iarr sé freisin go mbunófaí grúpa athbhreithnithe ardleibhéal chun ról agus seasamh an Chartlann Náisiúnta ar fud an rialtais a scrúdú. Tugaimid faoi deara an tAthbhreithniú ar Sheirbhísí Poiblí a rinneadh ar an gCartlann Náisiúnta agus táimid ag tnúth lena moltaí a fheiceáil.

Aithníonn an Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta agus fáiltíonn sí roimh an ardphróifíl phoiblí a d'fhobair an Chartlann Náisiúnta ar roinnt bealaí thar an tréimhse a chlúdaítear sa tuarascáil seo. Áirítear leis seo úsáid a bhaint as ardáin meán sóisialta, léirithe fhoireann na Cartlainne Náisiúnta ar líne agus roinnt imeachtaí poiblí. I measc na n-imeachtaí sin, bhí:

- ‘Protecting the Public Record: models of international best practice’ (an 24 Meitheamh 2021)
- Clár Comórtha 2021 an Chartlann Náisiúnta, lena n-áirítear roinnt cainteanna poiblí; Taispeántas an Chonartha i Londain, i mBaile Átha Cliath agus roinnt ionaid réigiúnacha i gcomhpháirtíocht le hÚdaráis Áitiúla; saothar ealaíontóir cónaithe John Beattie.
- Seimineár ar an láthair agus ar líne dar teideal ‘The National Archives – the Memory of the Nation’ lenár gCathaoirleach, an Breitheamh Onórách John Hedigan le freagraí ó bhaill den Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta (an 12 Bealtaine 2022).
- ‘Public Record Office of Ireland: The Story of a Building’ a sheol an tAire Catherine Martin (an 30 Meitheamh 2022).

I measc obair eile a rinne an Chomhairle tá litir chuitg an Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta maidir le hábhair imní a bhaineann le hacmhainní a chur ar fáil do Chartlann na nÚdarás Áitiúil. D'aontaigh an Chomhairle leis an ráiteas seo a leanas i mí Aibreáin 2022 maidir le bunú beartaithe an Lárionaid Náisiúnta um Thaighde agus Cuimhneachán:

Fáiltíonn an Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta roimh an bhfógra le déanaí maidir le pleannanna chun Lárionad Náisiúnta um Thaighde agus Cuimhneachán a chruthú chun ómós a thabhairt dóibh siúd go léir a bhí ina gcónaí i dTithe Máithreacha agus Leanaí, Scoileanna Saothair, Scoileanna Ceartúcháin, Neachtlanna Magdalen agus institiúidí gaolmhara. Fáiltíonn an Chomhairle freisin roimh an ról lárnoch a thugtar do Chartlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann i mbainistíocht ghairmiúil na dtaifid chartlainne a bhaineann leis an taisclann atá beartaithe. Tugann an Chomhairle faoi deara an gá atá le leithdháileadh acmhainní breise chun tacú leis seo mar chuid den phróiseas pleána.

Is cúis mhór bhróin don Chomhairle go bhfuair an cartlannaí Gregory O'Connor bás. Tá cuimhne mhaith againn ar fad ar a chuid blianta fada seirbhíse sa Chartlann Náisiúnta agus mar thacadóir cartlainne. Tá an coimeádaí Brian Birmingham ag dul ar scor agus ba mhaith linn aitheantas a thabhairt don obair a rinne sé mar rúnaí don Chomhairle. Guímid gach rath air ina ról nua, chomh maith le buíochas a ghabháil le Simon Willmott, atá ag obair ina áit, as tacú le hobair na Comhairle. Mar fhocal scoir, ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil le Stiúrthóir Chartlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Orlaith McBride, as a ceannaireacht, a gairmiúlacht agus a fíis, agus an fuinneamh agus an díograis a thugann sí don Chartlann Náisiúnta agus d'obair na Comhairle.

### 3. Conclúid

Tá imní ar an gComhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta fós faoi cheisteanna cumais agus foirne i gcomparáid le hinstiúidí cultúrtha náisiúnta eile in Éirinn chomh maith le comparadóirí idirnáisiúnta. Tugaimid faoi deara obair eiseamláireach leanúnach fhoireann an Chartlann Náisiúnta, ceannaireacht a Stiúrthóra agus an fhís a leagtar amach i bPlean Straitéiseach an Chartlann Náisiúnta. Fáiltímid freisin roimh fheabhsuithe foirne, cumas méadaithe agus feabhsú ar ról poiblí an Chartlann Náisiúnta laistigh de shaol cultúrtha an náisiúin. Ba mhaith linn aird a dhíriú freisin ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le dul chun cinn Thionscadal an Stór Cartlainne, forbairt acmhainne chun taifid dhigiteacha a bhainistiú, cur i bhfeidhm na moltaí ón Athbhreithniú ar Sheirbhísí Poiblí nuair a bheidh sé críochnaithe, tosaíocht chreat reachtúil sainoiriúnaithe chun tacú le hobair an Chartlann Náisiúnta, agus cartlannaithe gairmiúla agus bainisteoirí taifead a chur ar fáil laistigh de gach roinn rialtais agus comhlacht reachtúil.

#### 4.1 Comhaontú

D'aontaigh na baill den Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta leis seo ar an 13 Iúil 2022, i dtuarascáil bhliantúil 2021-2022.

An Breitheamh Onórach John Hedigan (Cathaoirleach)

An Dr Ciara Breathnach (Ainmní Choimisiún Lámhscríbhinní na hÉireann)

An Dr Hiram Morgan (Ainmní Choimisiún Lámhscríbhinní na hÉireann)

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Michael Nolan

An tOllamh Deirdre Raftery

## Aguisín

### Feidhm agus Cúram na Comhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta

Bunaíodh an Chomhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta i mí Eanáir 1987, agus bhí sé mar phríodhfheidhm aici comhairle a chur ar an Taoiseach, agus anois an tAire ábhartha (an tAire Catherine Martin faoi láthair, an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaón, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán) i bhfeidhmiú a c(h)umhactaí faoin Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta, 1986, a leasaíodh faoin Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta (Leasú), 2018. Cuireann an Chomhairle comhairle ar fáil maidir le gach ábhar a bhaineann leis an gcartlann agus úsáid phoiblí na cartlainne. Faoin Acht Rialtais Áitiúil 1994 agus faoi Acht na gCuanta 1996, d'fhéadfadh an Chomhairle comhairle a thabhairt freisin don Aire Comhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil agus don Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara maidir le haon ábhar a bhaineann le cartlann áitiúil agus le cartlann bhord cuain faoi seach.

Tugann an Chomhairle, go háirithe, comhairle faoi cheisteanna beartais a bhaineann le bainistíocht, soláthar foirne agus cóiríocht an Chartlann Náisiúnta, diúscairt taifead ag ranna rialtais agus comhlachtaí poiblí eile, aistriú taifid ranna chuig an gCartlann Náisiúnta lena gcaomhnú mar ábhar cartlainne, fáil cartlainne ó fhoinsí eile, cur ar fáil cartlainne le hiniúchadh ag an bpobal, caomhnú cartlainne agus na seirbhísí a sholáthraíonn an Chartlann Náisiúnta do bhaill den phobal.

Is í príomhfheidhm an Chartlann Náisiúnta ná taifid an rialtais a chaomhnú agus rochtain ar an gcartlann sin a sholáthar. Reachtaítear an fheidhm san Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta, 1986, a leasaíodh faoin Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta (Leasú), 2018. Seo a leanas achoimre ar phríomhfhorálacha an Acharta maidir le taifid Roinne:

- Ní mór gach taifead roinne a chaomhnú, ach amháin má tá a scríosadh údaraithe i scríbhinn ag Stiúrthóir an Chartlann Náisiúnta nó ag oifigeach eile de chuid an Chartlann Náisiúnta atá ainmnithe ag an Stiúrthóir chun na críche sin (Alt 6 de na Rialacháin, 1989).

Go ginearálta, ní mór gach taifead Roinne atá níos mó ná 30 bliain d’aois a aistriú chuig an Acht um Chartlann Náisiúnta, 1986. Aistreofar freisin na taifid sin a mheasann an tAire agus an tAire Rialtais atá ábhartha, atá níos mó ná 20 bliain d’aois, faoi fhórálacha an Achta um Chartlann Náisiúnta (Leasú), 2018. Is féidir le Ranna taifid ar leith a choinneáil agus/nó a choinneáil siar ó iniúchadh poiblí sa chás go bhfuil siad clúdaithe ag teastais ar a sonraítéar: o Go bhfuil siad in úsáid go rialta i Roinn nó go bhfuil gá leo maidir lena riarrachán, nó o Dá gcuircí ar fáil iad lena n-iniúchadh ag an bpobal:

- D’fhéadfaidís a bheith in aghaidh leas an phobail, nó
- D’fhéadfadh sárú dualgais reachtúil, nó sárú meon macánta a bheith i gceist ar an bhforas go bhfuil faisnéis iontu a soláthraíodh faoi rún, nó
- D’fhéadfaidís goilleadh ar dhaoine beo nó iad a chur i mbaol ar an bhforas go bhfuil faisnéis iontu faoi dhaoine aonair nó go bhféadfadh nó gur dócha go bhféadfaí cás a thabhairt le haghaidh damáistí.

