



CIVIL DEFENCE

Cosaint Shibhialta

2021



Editorial

2020 was a very exceptional year, not just in Ireland but internationally. The COVID-19 pandemic was something that will live long in the memory. It created challenges for all of us and sadly resulted in the untimely deaths of 2,237 of our citizens during the course of the year. The death toll could have been much higher but for the efforts of each and every citizen. Front line workers played a major role and most particularly those working within the Health sector. The professionalism of both staff and indeed volunteers from organisations such as Civil Defence in a time of such crisis demonstrates the very best of Irish society.

As happened so often in the past, Civil Defence was not found wanting and its members played an important role in supporting the Principal Response Agencies in a variety of ways; from delivering COVID-19 test samples for the HSE, to transporting patients to COVID-19 test centres and to hospitals. Volunteers were also involved in supporting the “Community Call” helplines run by Local Authorities and in doing so undertook a variety of taskings including delivering food and medications to vulnerable members of the community. Civil Defence volunteers also supported the Irish Blood Transfusion Service at clinics up and down the country.

COVID-19 resulted in the longest and most extensive deployment of Civil Defence in the organisations history. In the period 17 March – 31 December, over 900 Civil Defence Volunteers provided 44,100 volunteer hours and undertook 5,420 separate taskings for the Principal Response Agencies. These are very substantial numbers and demonstrate the very significant resource that Civil Defence can provide to the State in times of emergency.

While these and many other COVID-19 related taskings were undertaken, Civil Defence was still available to assist with more familiar work such as searching for missing persons when tasked by An Garda Síochána.

2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of Civil Defence. The organisation was founded as part of the States response to the threat of a nuclear attack or accident. The organisation has evolved over the years to assist with a range of emergencies. In that context, in 2020 the Civil Defence organisation completed the review of the roles and activities of Civil Defence which commenced in September 2018. The policy document “Civil Defence – Towards 2030” was published in June 2020 following extensive consultation with all stakeholders. It sets out the five core services of Civil Defence for the coming years that each and every Local Authority Civil Defence Unit must have the capability to undertake. My Department has agreed a three year implementation plan for “Civil Defence – Towards 2030” with the Local Authority sector.

My Department in conjunction with the Local Authority sector has since September 2019 been working on developing a new Management Information System for Civil Defence. The new system is expected to be rolled out nationally in Q4 2021. The system will be more user friendly for Local Authority Civil Defence Officers, my Department and indeed for Civil Defence volunteers. It will also ensure that the input provided by Civil Defence supporting the Principal Response Agencies on a weekly basis is fully captured as is the training undertaken by volunteers on an annual basis.

Hopefully as we move through 2021, we will see a gradual return to more normal life with a resumption of many of the community and sporting events that Civil Defence has supported over the years. I know many volunteers have missed their regular training, their opportunity to learn new skills and the important social aspect of belonging to Civil Defence.

I wish all the Civil Defence volunteers and their officers all the best for 2021 and again, on behalf of the government, I want to thank you for your contribution and commitment in 2020.

Simon Coveney T.D.,

Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Founding of Civil Defence 1951

The 1950s were nervous times in Europe. While Ireland had largely escaped the destruction wrought by the Second World War, new dangers had emerged as a 'Cold War' began between the Soviet Union and the West. A nuclear arms race was underway and there was no certainty that Ireland would be spared if hostilities broke out again in Europe. The Government realised there was a need for a competent Civil Defence organisation to care for the community after any major disaster, particularly one involving nuclear weapons.

An Air Raid Precautions organisation had existed during the Second World War. This included an Auxiliary Fire Service. It was decided to reconstitute the ARP organisation with an emphasis on rescue and casualty treatment. A Civil Defence School was established at Ratra House in the Phoenix Park. A number of the staff were sent for training at the UK Civil Defence College in Yorkshire in January 1951. The new Civil Defence School was opened by Oscar Traynor T.D., Minister for Defence on June 18th 1951. Twenty six newly appointed Civil Defence Officers attended the course. They were trained to establish Civil Defence in specified towns, select premises for occupation by the Local Authority in the event of war, be responsible for their furnishing and equipment at short notice and to organize stockpiling of articles required for Civil Defence purposes.

The Department of Defence began purchasing fire pumps, rescue vehicles, protective clothing, footwear and equipment for catering, for rest centres and local training. Instructor courses commenced at the Civil Defence School and by March 1952 over 100 people had qualified. The target was to recruit and train two persons per thousand in larger centres of population and establish units of thirty persons elsewhere.

2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of Civil Defence. The connection with Ratra House remains with the Phoenix Training Centre and the 'Range' still important features of the modern Civil Defence. The uniforms and equipment may have changed but organisations central role of highly trained volunteers serving their community in times of need remains unchanged.

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Civil Defence Officers' Course 18th to 22nd June, 1951



Our People

Civil Defence is very much a people based organisation. We welcomed a number of new Civil Defence Officers in 2020. Fran Power moved to Mayo Civil Defence after a short period as CDO in Sligo, where he has now been replaced by Darren McGough. Jason Ullrich was appointed as temporary CDO in Wicklow. We send our best wishes to Raphael Fallon who retired after 13 years as CDO in Offaly.

A number of new Assistant Civil Defence Officer posts have been created and we welcome Maeve Hourihan and Ger Sheehan in Cork. We also welcome Shane Quinn who was appointed as ACDO in Meath. Shane was replaced as National Volunteer Representative by Verona Fitzpatrick of Cavan Civil Defence.

A large number of Temporary Assistant Civil Defence Officers were appointed as part of Civil Defences COVID response. They gave great service to the organisation at the peak of the emergency.



Maeve Hourihan, Cork ACDO

There were three changes on the staff of the Civil Defence Branch in Roscrea. Paul Brophy replaced Kealan McMoreland as Communications Officer and James Doyle and Leah Holt commenced as Instructors in the Civil Defence College, while Eoin Costello departed to a new position at Mary I, Limerick.



Paul Brophy, Communications Officer



Raphael Fallon, Offaly CDO



Shane Quinn, Meath ACDO



Jason Ullrich, Wicklow CDO



Verona Fitzpatrick, National Volunteer Rep

TEMPORARY ACDOs 2020

Carlow	Ger Doyle
Cavan	Carmel Prior
Clare	Steven Hayes
Donegal	Jackie McCrudden
Galway	Louie Casserly
Kildare	Declan Keogh
Kilkenny	Paraic Kelly
Laois	Steve Talbot
Leitrim	John McWeeney
Louth	John O'Hanlon
Mayo	Tommy Walsh
Meath	Shane Quinn
Monaghan	Brian McCreery
Roscommon	Aisling Finan
Sligo	Della Lindsay
Westmeath	Imelda Bardon
Wexford	Sinéad Furlong
Wicklow	Michael Carroll



Leah Holt, College Instructor



James Doyle, College Instructor



Fran Power, Mayo CDO



Darren McGough, Sligo CDO



Gerard Sheehan, Cork ACDO

COVID-19

Local Authority Civil Defence Units throughout the country actively supported all three Principal Response Agencies, the Department of Justice and Equality and the Irish Blood Transfusion Service since the onset of COVID-19.

Civil Defence volunteers undertook 5,420 individual taskings from 17th March to 31st December 2020 while providing sustained support to communities throughout the country.

During this 290 day period:

- A daily average of 38 Civil Defence volunteers provided a daily average of 152 volunteer hours.
- A total of 44,100 volunteer hours were provided by over 900 different Civil Defence volunteers.
- A total of 5,420 individual taskings were undertaken in support to the Principal Response Agencies, the Irish Blood Transfusion Service and the Department of Justice & Equality.
- These volunteers were supported by a fleet of Civil Defence Vehicles including 93 four-wheel drive jeeps, 39 vans, 31 ambulances, 27 minibuses, 3 operational support vehicles, 2 trucks & 1 welfare trailer.

Civil Defence Co-Ordination

The Department of Defence had a co-ordination mechanism in place with all Civil Defence Officers in Local Authorities and met via tele-conference with all Civil Defence Officers and Assistant Civil Defence Officers, on a weekly basis during the peak of the crisis. This changed to fortnightly and subsequently monthly tele-conferences as the situation dictated.

Most Civil Defence Officers have been involved in the Community Call forums within their Local Authorities.



Volunteer with full PPE

Civil Defence Taskings

All 29 Local Authority Civil Defence Units were tasked by the Principal Response Agencies to support their COVID-19 efforts.



Sanitising Civil Defence Vehicle



Control Centre at Dublin CD HQ



COVID Test Centre Donegal



Laois delivering test samples

Examples of the types of tasks undertaken by Civil Defence volunteers include;

- providing administrative assistance to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service,
- transporting patients to hospitals, nursing homes and testing centres,
- collection of medications and medical equipment and delivering to patients homes,
- transporting test samples daily for the HSE to the UCD National Laboratory and to other Laboratories,
- providing assistance to vulnerable persons within communities by delivering food and medications and collecting their post,
- supporting young people with special requirements in their education by delivering homework packs,
- delivering essential PPE to community hospitals and nursing homes,
- transporting COVID-19 positive persons from accommodation centres to other locations to allow for self-isolation,
- transporting healthcare staff from their accommodation to nursing homes,
- transporting healthcare workers involved in carrying out COVID-19 testing to nursing homes,
- setting up isolation centres and transporting food and laundry for homeless services,
- collecting foodstuffs from suppliers and bakers for food hub,
- distributing PPE for local authority sector,
- delivering activity packs to families on behalf of family resource centre,
- providing an Information Manager to Inter Agency Emergency Management Office,
- delivering PPE 'donning and doffing' training to local authority,
- delivering a demo via zoom to at-risk members of the community on 'first-aid and safety in the home',
- sorting and packing PPE packs for funeral undertakers,
- assisting with monitoring of beaches,
- delivering clothing to women's refuge.



Meath assisting at IBTS Centre

Missing Person Searches



Dublin Search

Assisting An Garda Síochána and the Irish Coast Guard in searches for missing persons is a regular feature of Civil Defence. These searches can last from a few hours to many weeks. While COVID-19 related duties dominated the Civil Defence operations throughout 2020, Civil Defence volunteers assisted in over 98 searches for missing persons.

Successful searches included a search and rescue operation for a father and daughter in a wooded area near Ennis in March, and a search and rescue operation near Inishannon in November.

Ennis Search & Rescue

On Wednesday morning, 4th March Clare Civil Defence was activated by An Garda Síochána assist in the search for a father and daughter reported missing in a densely wooded



Louth Search

area approximately six miles from Ennis. The father had contacted An Garda Síochána to explain that they had become disorientated while out walking, and had no idea where they were at the time of the phone call but had entered into a flooded area.

Fortunately a member of Clare Civil Defence lived close to where the missing persons were walking and had an extensive knowledge

of the area. An initial recce team of three members were dispatched to the woods to meet with the member with local knowledge. Shortly after a follow-up search team of 15 members arrived on scene and began lighting up the area whilst the search manager formulated a search plan with the Civil Defence Officer.

Shortly after 10pm the recce team located the missing



Search of River Nore

persons in an area identified by the member with local knowledge. The father and daughter were returned to the staging area for the search and assessed by the search medical team. Thankfully neither had any injuries.

Members of Clare Civil Defence were commended for the very methodical and professional search and rescue operation and complimented on not only their rapid response but the successful outcome.

Inishannon Search & Rescue

Cork West Civil Defence was



Inishannon Search Operation

activated on Sunday afternoon, 29th November by An Garda Síochána, Bandon, to assist in

the search for a missing person near Innishannon.

The Civil Defence Drone Unit, Search Response Team, and Boat Unit were deployed, with support from The Irish Search Dogs.

The missing man was located alive by the Cork West Civil Defence Search Team in a derelict building 1Km from the last reported sighting.

The man was treated at the scene by Cork West Civil Defence EMTs before handover to the National Ambulance Service.



Inishannon Search Operation

Civil Defence and the Northern Refugees



Volunteers and Refugees at Collinstown House, Clondalkin, Co Dublin- September 1972

Refugees from conflict might be something we associate with war-torn Syria or Afghanistan. Younger volunteers may not realise that Civil Defence has played a key role in dealing with refugees on our own island. In Northern Ireland, following the suppression of civil rights marches in 1969, there was a major outbreak of sectarian violence. Large numbers of people began fleeing across the border to escape the violence. Civil Defence played a major role in looking after these refugees.

In the period between the outbreak of the riots in 1969 and February 1973 over 60,000 people were forced out of their homes. Most families made their own arrangements to seek alternative accommodation, but many fled over the border to the South as refugees. The initial influx was accommodated at Army camps, such as at Gormanston in County Meath.

Civil Defence volunteer John Curran described his experience of arriving at Gormanston during the worst of the Northern Refugee crisis:

"We travelled in convoy with two mobile canteens, a water tanker and supply truck. Equipment included twelve Soyer boilers. We were shocked to see the crowds [of Northern Refugees] lining the roadway down from the N1 to Gormanston Camp and buses parked on each side of the N1. The crowds were so heavy that we had considerable difficulty making our way through"

In July 1971 the flow of refugees from the North began to exceed the capacity of the Army refugee centres. The Minister for Defence asked the local authorities to provide accommodation for refugees. The work of caring for the refugees in each local authority area was under the direction and coordination of the County or City Manager, in his capacity as Civil Defence Controller. The Managers had the assistance of their Civil Defence organisation and also volunteers from the Order of Malta and Red Cross.

Religious leaders and various organisations and individuals placed their facilities at the disposal of the local authorities. By Friday 13th August 1971, 5,409 refugees were accommodated in the State, 2,695 by the Army and 2,714 by the Local Authorities in various centres across the country, e.g., boarding schools, hospitals, community centres.

In addition to assisting the military authorities at the army camps, Civil Defence provided the staff for many of the local authority centres. They registered the refugees, provided welfare including catering,

security, and transportation. In many centres the Civil Defence members arranged social evenings for the evacuees.

Most of the refugees returned back to the North at the end of August. By 6th September 1971 there were 430 refugees in Army camps and 125 in Local Authority centres, in addition to the number accommodated at the Garda Training College in Templemore. It would be the summer of 1972 before another large influx of refugees would arrive over the border again.

Billy Kennedy, a volunteer with Dublin Civil Defence, was seconded from his job in Dublin Corporation to serve as a full time member of Civil Defence during the crisis. Billy was responsible for managing the reception and transportation of those arriving at Connolly Station to the various accommodation centres around the country. He spent many hours at Connolly Station waiting for trains filled with refugees to arrive from the North.

Willie and Claire Bligh met while volunteering at the centre for Northern refugees at Collinstown House in Clondalkin, Dublin. They also helped with the refugees in the RDS and at accommodation centres at Clonskeagh Hospital and St Joseph's Cabra.

"Well, we looked after them, we fed them, and we often took the children to the pictures and maybe to a play-ground - well there wasn't such great playgrounds then but somewhere that they could run out sort of and we would do different things maybe try and do things around with them".

Willie and Claire they gave up their holidays to care for the refugees, as well as working

**Civil Defence Volunteers,
Collinstown House, Clondalkin
Co Dublin - 1972**

in the centres in the evenings and at weekends. It was only in later years they realised the trauma these people were going through at the time.

"We were dressed in the black uniform, one thing which freaked them out, I didn't understand at the time, eventually I did find out, we used to have these overcoats, the only overcoat we had, the wet overcoats, but it was so similar to the B Specials' overcoats and it used to freak them out when we used to wear them, when it rained in the evening we'd wear them and they used to freak out with this. So, we were told not to wear them."

The planning required and the experience gained during that period was a valuable learning tool for Civil Defence and the Welfare Service in particular. The lessons learned were utilised in the development of training programmes for the management of rest and reception centres for evacuees. These skills were applied again in 1992 when Civil Defence was tasked with the reception and care of a group of Bosnian Refugees at Cherry Orchard in Dublin.

Jessie Walsh,
Former Dublin Civil Defence Officer



Vehicle Fleet Upgrades for Civil Defence

A grant of €1,000,000 was allocated to Civil Defence from the Dormant Accounts Fund in 2020. The money was used to purchase 32 Ford Rangers as part of a further upgrade of the Civil Defence fleet of each local authority area.



Ford Ranger purchased by Kildare Civil Defence



Ford Ranger purchased by Kilkenny Civil Defence

Clare Civil Defence Donation to Clare (SICAP)



A massive well done to all Clare Civil Defence members who presented food parcels for delivery to the Clare Social Inclusion Community Activation Program (SICAP). The initiative was led by Clare Civil Defence Team Leader Brid Casey with all of the food for distribution being donated by Clare Civil Defence members. Included in the picture are members of the SICAP committee Fiona McAurthur, Geraldine Sherlock & Darina Greene as well as Clare Civil Defence members Brid, Linda, Cian, Jo and ACDO Steven Hayes at the handover.

A wonderful display of generosity to help those in need in these extraordinary times.

New Meath Civil Defence Headquarters

On 25th September 2020, Helen McEntee TD, Minister for Justice officially opened the new Meath Civil Defence headquarters in Navan. Meath Civil Defence has a very active Unit and they are delighted to have a purpose built home for training and for storing their vehicles, boats and equipment. The building was funded by Meath County Council with some support from the Department of Defence. Congratulations to Michael Fitzsimons, Civil Defence Officer, to Shane Quinn, Assistant Civil Defence Officer and to all the Meath Civil Defence volunteers.



Cork City Flood Relief Efforts – 19th-20th October 2020

Cork City Civil Defence was activated on Monday 19th October to assist with flood relief efforts due to rising floodwaters throughout Cork City. Volunteers responded following a request from the Flood Relief Group for volunteer Swift Water and Pump Teams. Volunteer members were stood down on Tuesday evening 20th October following two days supporting their local community.



Forest Fire, Ravensdale Co Louth

On Sunday 31st May Louth Civil Defence was activated to provide drone assistance at the scene of a large forest fire in the Ravensdale area of County Louth.

Volunteers responded quickly, providing vital aerial footage of

the fire, which was live streamed to a screen at the command post which aided Fire Officers in their response to the incident.

Volunteers continued to assist on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June.

Civil Defence Severe Weather Relief Efforts

19 February – 4 March

Civil Defence members in four units, utilising 4WD Vehicles, a High Axle Unimog Vehicle, and other equipment were activated to assist in the areas worst affected by flooding before and after Storm Jorge from 19th February to 4th March.

- **Clare** Activated from 19th February to 4th March – Transporting isolated residents and essential provisions, including medication for residents in the Springfield estate in Co Clare, utilising a High Axle Unimog Vehicle (loaned from Kerry Civil Defence).



- **Cavan** Activated from 25th February to 4th March – Transporting isolated residents and essential provisions for residents from isolated areas in Lough Oughter area, peaking at 22 calls on Sunday 1st March. The unit has made 17 daily calls on 2nd and 3rd March.
- **Leitrim** Activated from 27th February to 4th March – Transporting essential medication to isolated elderly residents in isolated areas; monitoring flood waters in worst affected Carrick on Shannon area.
- **Kerry** Activated on 2nd March – Transported residents from Residential Home in mountainous area, isolated due to heavy snowfall.



DIY SOS – February 2020

Over eleven days, Limerick Civil Defence along with colleagues from Clare and Galway Civil Defence volunteered their time alongside countless tradesmen to renovate the home of 13-year-old Amy Mulcahy, who was involved in an accident which left her dependent on the use of a wheelchair.

On Thursday 20th February, hundreds of locals, family, and friends gathered outside the Mulcahy home in Glenside, Annacotty for the grand reveal.

Presenter Baz Ashmawy spoke to the crowd, thanking them for their support and hard work - as did Amy and her mum Sharon.



Pre COVID-19

Civil Defence Training 2020

During 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic made its mark on all aspects of Department of Defence, Civil Defence College training. Certifying agencies including the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) and Rescue 3 extended certification for specific qualifications, while the HSA provided guidance for the delivery of training within the constraints of government restrictions.

The Department of Defence college instructors researched training delivery and assessment options for remote learning and assessment during COVID-19 restrictions. The development of new assessment approaches allowed the Department of Defence Civil Defence College certify over 70 responders and recertify over 250 instructors during 2020. In addition, 342 Civil Defence EMTs, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics who provide pre-hospital care were privileged /authorised to practice for Civil Defence.

Civil Defence College EFR Assessments 2020

The annual EFR assessments that commenced in March were brought to an abrupt halt due to the Government restrictions imposed by COVID 19. The Department of Defence, Civil Defence Branch reviewed options, spoke with PHECC and commenced looking at alternatives. PHECC was clear that the Department of Defence, Civil Defence Branch was responsible for the delivery and security of assessments. However, the restrictions gave the Civil Defence College a unique opportunity to trial some new and innovative methods of carrying out training and assessments. This included the use of Video-Based Assessments (VBA's) during the certification of new EFR Responders, who were unable to complete their assessments by the traditional methods in Roscrea.

Over the course of two weeks, 28 EFR students from 4 Local Authorities completed their OSCE's in their local

OSCEs were ran locally, with Volunteer EFR Students, Patients, Camera Operators & On-Site Assessors

Each Students OSCE'S were recorded & sent to Civil Defence College for reviewing

Examiners travelled to Roscrea to analyse the recordings, using traditional scoring methods

Results were calculated and issued to the EFR Students

Survey was sent to all who took part in the process, responses were analysed for future use

training centres. This included the participation of Volunteers who acted as patients, camera operators who recorded the scenarios and on-site supervisors who gave instructions during the assessments. Each student had their OSCE scenarios recorded, and these recordings were then sent to the Civil Defence College, where another cohort of EFR assessors reviewed and marked the student's OSCE, using the traditional scoring method.

Upon completion, the results of the VBA's were issued, a survey was carried out in order to gain insights into this new mode of assessment, from the perspective of all those involved in the process. The results of the survey were very positive, with 77% of respondents stating that they would take part in a VBA process again. While it is a normal reaction to feel nervous before any assessment, this was new and a little different. Feedback from EFR students in particular stated that the VBA process was "less stressful" and less time-consuming than the traditional assessment method, as Volunteers were among "familiar people in a familiar environment", and didn't have to travel in order to complete the assessments.

The assessors were also generally pleased with the ability to review an assessment a few times to ensure the candidate was awarded all relevant marks. All data protection and consent issues as outlined in the pre assessment materials worked well, and the work of the Local Authority Civil Defence Officer and Local Authority

DPO, IT and H&S Officers, contributed very positively to the task.

Overall, the VBA process proved to be an effective method of assessment in the given circumstances, and will adapted and refined by the Civil Defence College for its future use.

PHECC Responder Instructor Recertification

The pandemic necessitated a lot of changes to the usual Civil Defence College instructor recertification processes. One of the Department of Defence objectives was the annual recertification of PHECC Responder instructors. The Civil Defence Volunteer PHECC Responder Instructors certification had to be completed or almost 150 Local Authority Civil Defence volunteer instructors would fall out of compliance. A completely online recertification format was designed and delivered to all of the instructors nominated for recertification. The assessment workbook, which was discussed with PHECC consisted of a Module review from the FAR or EFR Civil Defence presentation, the development of Multiple Choice Questions and Answers and a written response to reflect how the instructor would manage two different scenarios that they may encounter while delivering training. The scenarios were designed to include actual scenarios a Civil Defence Instructor may encounter.

A two week limit was established for the completion and submission of all workbooks, following which we received 23 CFR workbooks, 41 FAR workbooks and 55 EFR ones. A great response deemed by all!



The next few weeks saw the Department of Defence, Civil Defence College review all the responses, issuing new certificates and carrying out a survey to find out how the instructors felt about the recertification process being conducted in this way.

The pie chart opposite paints a largely positive outcome from those who completed the survey and the comment in blue above was a common thread throughout. There were also comments about returning to the traditional way of recertifying. This will give the Department of Defence, Civil Defence College a good opportunity to create innovative, hybrid courses for the upcoming year.

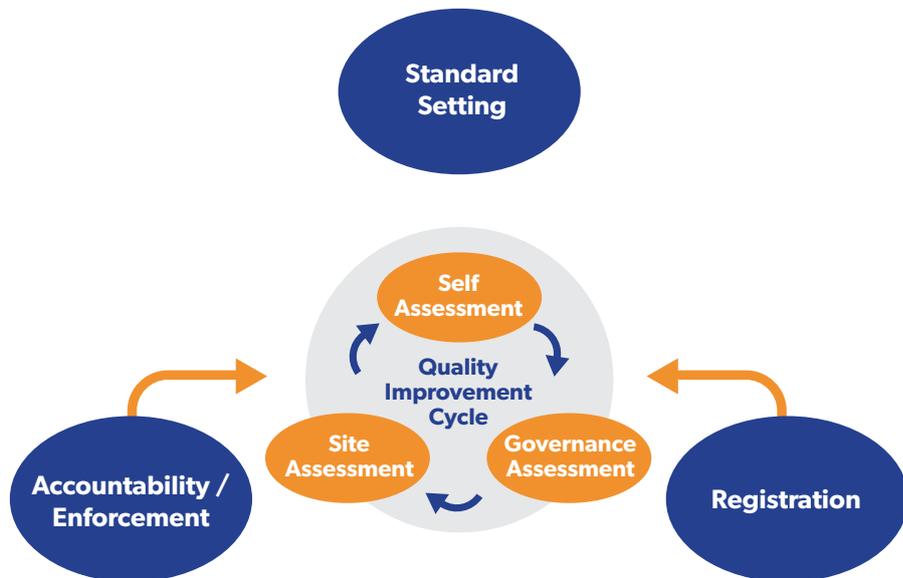
“My last recertification was done in a group work exercise similar to this but in this way you had to give an answer. You didn’t get swallowed up by the others, you couldn’t hide and I liked that.”

Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council Governance Validation Framework

The Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) are the regulator for emergency medical services in Ireland. Civil Defence are licensed by PHECC on an annual basis. PHECC redesigned the licencing process which resulted in the Governance Validation Framework (GVF). The GVF is a quality assurance initiative which provides assurance to PHECC and the wider public of the standards in place within licenced providers. It also promotes quality improvement within the provider.

In 2019 the Department of Defence, Civil Defence Branch completed the Governance Validation Framework process. It comprises of 196 policies and procedures that had to be addressed and submitted to PHECC. This was a large volume of work that involved the cooperation of the Department of Defence (DoD) and the Local Authority (LA). It was decided to set up a working group to steer this project. The group comprising of representatives from the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), the Local Authority Civil Defence Officers (CDO’s) and the Department of Defence (DoD).

The working group identified where responsibility lay for each point, in many cases there was joint responsibility. This process highlighted the need to introduce new policies and operational procedures. On 17 July 2020, the Department of Defence on behalf of the Civil Defence, lodged the Civil Defence Governance Validation Framework (GVF) application with PHECC.



When COVID 19 restrictions allow PHECC will complete three onsite assessments, one will be in the Civil Defence College and two at selected Local Authority Civil Defence units. In the meantime, PHECC have issued Civil Defence the PHECC CPG License. Civil Defence always provide a high level of care, the difference with the Governance Validation Framework is that the Department of Defence and Local Authorities can now prove we offer a high level of care.

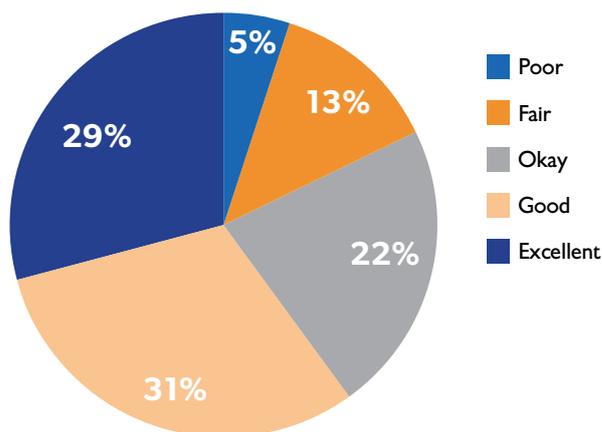
Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA)



The GVF process also highlighted that in order for Civil Defence Paramedics (P) and Advanced Paramedics (AP) to practice, they would need access to specific medications that require registration and licensing by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA). It was agreed that the Department of Defence would make an application to HPRA on behalf of the Local Authorities, that way one Registration and License would cover all the LA once they meet the criteria set down by HPRA. An application to HPRA on behalf of 17 Local Authority Civil Defence Units was made on 14 October 2020. HPRA then undertook a distant assessment of the application on 24 and 25 November 2020.

Our thanks to all for your patience and participation in 2020.

OVERALL EXPERIENCE





Volunteers assisting at IBTS Centre

Civil Defence in Numbers

There were 3,072 active volunteers organised in 29 Civil Defence Units across Ireland.

Civil Defence volunteers were deployed to 6084 events/activities during the course of the year.

Activities included:

- 5,420 COVID-19 pandemic duties
- 98 Missing Person Searches
- 209 Sporting Events
- 318 Community Events
- 39 Climatic/Severe Weather Relief Efforts



Loading food parcels for distribution to vulnerable persons

New Members are always welcome. Enrolment enquiries may be made through your local Civil Defence Officer. Contact details are on our website

www.civildefence.ie