



Set up in 2000, the programme was initially conceived of as a database to characterise the state of repair of Ireland's historic and traditional buildings, based on information submitted by the building owners. The grant programme with which this register has become synonymous helps with the carrying out of repairs to protect the significance of the architectural heritage. By 2004, it was decided to focus strategically on funding the repair of roofs only. Buildings in both urban and rural areas are offered grants, and the roof does not have to make a contribution to the architectural or scenographic significance of the building. However, many do. Evaluation of the merit of the building by committee is on the basis of photographs submitted with the application, and the contribution of the building to its setting has been used as a criterion for selection. The programme has contributed significantly to the maintenance of thatched buildings.

Date introduced

2000, evolving from 'architecture grants' that had been offered since the setting up of the Heritage Council.

Over-riding purpose

To provide grant support for the conservation of buildings of heritage merit, and in so doing, to improve the standard of building conservation works.

Partners

Panel of conservation advisors [and inspectors], private property owners.

Aims and objectives

- To alleviate the risk of decay and dereliction to architectural heritage buildings
- To set standards for the conservation of buildings
- To incentivise the adoption of conservation principles by building owners in the curatorship of their buildings
- To provide a market incentive for conservation skills and traditional building repair materials
- To promote compatible or parallel heritage conservation policies, e.g., for the protection of bats or archaeologically-significant features
- To demonstrate good value for money in building conservation
- To enhance and maintain the contribution of heritage buildings in their setting/landscape

Required outcomes and benchmarking

- (a) Expenditure of funding annually
- (b) Achievement of cross-compliance with other forms of heritage protection
- (c) Identification of case studies in good practice
- (d) Publication of case studies as good practice guides or exemplars

Budget

€1,625,000 p.a. (1997-2008).

Implementation

The programme is implemented by the architecture officer and the grant officer of the Heritage Council. The architecture committee screens the grant applications in a two-stage process. Council approves all awards.

Projects implemented under programme to date

The programme has seen the disbursement of €16,493,311 on 721 building repair projects in the period 2000-2008. Whilst the grant amounts are small, Council exerts an influence over the conservation standard of the works carried out, with a strong emphasis on the principle of 'minimum intervention'. The grant is never more than 50% of the cost of the works, and so the scheme is efficient in leveraging other funding (owners' own funds, other public grant funding) for building conservation.



Details of projects implemented through the programme

Exemplary projects from the point-of-view of contribution to their landscape and setting include:

Building	Town	County	Year funded
The Mass House	Tomhaggard	Wexford	2003
The Man Engine House	Allihies	Cork	2003
St Brendan's Cathedral	Clonfert	Galway	2003
St Fachtna's Cathedral	Roscarberry	Cork	2002-3, 2008
Pollwitch	Mayglass	Wexford	1998-2003
Thatched pub	Cloneen	Tipperary	2004
Holy Trinity Church	Crosshaven	Cork	2004
Sirius Arts Centre	Cobh	Cork	2005-6
Duncannon Fort	Duncannon	Wexford	2006
Christ Church	Portumna	Galway	2006
Enniscoie House and Gate Lodge	Ballina	Mayo	2006
Ballykilcavan House	Stradbally	Laois	2007
Ballykerin House	the Burren	Clare	2007
Synod Hall	Christ Church Place	Dublin 8	2007
Ballyhearney House	Valencia Island	Kerry	2007
St Carthage's Cathedral	Lismore	Waterford	2005, 2007-8
St Cronan's Church	Tuamgraney	Clare	2008

Awards

None.

Related publications/articles

Leaflet on the Buildings at Risk project.

Details of programme evaluation

At least every five years.



The changing character of buildings at risk.

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