

Northern Ireland Highlights 2019/20



NORTHERN IRELAND HIGHLIGHTS 2019/20

Working for Northern Ireland

The Crown Estate manages marine and land assets in Northern Ireland. This report provides a summary of the highlights and main developments for the period 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020.

In everything we do, we seek to take a long-term view and consider our actions from every perspective. Our success relies on our relationships with all of our stakeholders, from our customers and partners through to the communities we serve. We aim to bring a partnership approach to these relationships to achieve the best outcomes for everyone.

While the COVID-19 pandemic only materialised towards the end of the 2019/20 financial year, its impact on some of our customers and operations in Northern Ireland, as with the rest of the UK, was felt almost immediately and remains a developing situation. Our approach has been to maintain a dialogue with our customers and partners during this difficult time to help navigate the operational challenges brought about by the pandemic's arrival.

A more detailed account of our UK-wide operational response relating to our customers and wider networks can be found on page 18 of our Annual Report.

For more information see: thecrownestate.co.uk/ 2020-annual-report-document

Areas of responsibility

We are responsible for managing Northern Ireland's seabed out to 12 nautical miles. Our interests therefore include renewable energy, telecommunications, power cables and pipelines. In addition, we hold the rights to the resources on the continental shelf, such as natural resources and offshore energy, but excluding fossil fuels. We also manage around 65 per cent of the Northern Irish foreshore and riverbed and as such, have interests in aquaculture: oyster, mussel and seaweed cultivation, as well as coastal interests including commercial ports, recreational harbours, marinas, jetties, wharves and slipways.

We manage the rights to deposits of gold and silver, known as Mines Royal. There is one Mines Royal lease in place in Northern Ireland, along with a further thirteen Mines Royal option agreements with five companies.

Working in partnership

Our approach to asset management in Northern Ireland is grounded in a partnership approach which sees us collaborate with a diverse range of organisations to share knowledge, data and expertise. This includes the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), the Department for the Economy (DfE), industry and a wide range of partners.

While no areas of the Northern Irish seabed have been included in this round, we have been working closely with DfE and DAERA throughout the development of our Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 process (our first major UK leasing round in a decade). Now through the Offshore Wind Evidence and Change programme we are looking at the longer term potential of offshore wind in the region, as well as supporting on the development of DfE's Energy Strategy. We welcome this collaborative approach to working and look forward to continuing these strong relationships.

Coastal estate

We continue to work with partners and communities along our coastal interests in Northern Ireland on a number of projects. Our main activities during the year included:

- Completing various management agreements with the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council to assist in the effective management of its assets
- Renewed leases and agreed new leases with the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council to assist in the effective management of its waterways
- Agreed with Northern Ireland Water to consolidate its numerous assets on Crown Estate land into a master lease in order to simplify future management
- Completed various surface water agreements with commercial developers to assist the development of multiple brownfield sites.

Mines Royal

In our role as the manager of rights to deposits of gold and silver, we consider applications from responsible parties for extraction and mining, and where appropriate grant options or leases. Flintridge Resources, which received planning permission in 2015 for the underground mining of gold in County Tyrone, commenced work but the project is currently on hold. Dalradian Gold's planning application for the Curraghinalt Project, which is located in the counties of Tyrone and Londonderry, was submitted in November 2017; it has recently been announced that the planning application will be the subject of a Public Local Inquiry.

Sharing knowledge

Our expert teams are uniquely placed to look at the bigger picture across a breadth of sectors, carefully managing competing demands for space on a busy seabed and helping to unlock opportunities for sustainable development. We do this through engaging with industry stakeholders and facilitating better information sharing. Our Marine Data Exchange (MDE) holds 2TB of offshore survey data collected in waters off Northern Ireland, covering a variety of survey campaigns, including environmental monitoring and tidal resource assessments, from offshore wind and tidal stream projects. Over 90% of this survey data, collected in Northern Ireland, is available to download for free at the link below.

For more information see: marinedataexchange.co.uk.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (UNAUDITED)

Revenue by activity 2019/20

£2.0m

Property value by activity as at 31 March 2020

£19.8m

The Crown Estate in Northern Ireland

	The Crown Estate N. Ireland Year ended 31 March 2020 £m	The Crown Estate N. Ireland Year ended 31 March 2019 £m	The Crown Estate Total Year ended 31 March 2020 £m	The Crown Estate Total Year ended 31 March 2019 £m	The Crown Estate N. Ireland Increase/ (decrease) from prior year %	The Crown Estate N. Ireland Percentage of Total %
Revenue	2.0	1.5	476.0	441.0	33.3	0.4
Gross Surplus	2.0	1.5	389.4	379.8	33.3	0.5
Property value	19.8	18.9	12,522.1	12,526.1	4.8	0.2
Capital Investments	_	_	458.5	381.3		
Capital Receipts	_	_	356.5	192.8		

Decreed	The Crown Estate N. Ireland Year ended 31 March 2020	The Crown Estate N. Ireland Year ended 31 March 2019 (restated)
Revenue by activity	£m	£m
Aquaculture	0.1	0.1
Cables/pipelines	0.6	0.5
Coastal	1.2	0.8
Minerals	0.1	0.1
Renewables	_	
Total	2.0	1.5

	The Crown Estate N. Ireland Year ended 31 March 2020	The Crown Estate N. Ireland Year ended 31 March 2019 (restated)
Property value by activity	£m	£m
Aquaculture	1.3	1.1
Cables/pipelines	5.4	5.2
Coastal	12.9	12.3
Minerals	0.1	0.2
Renewables	0.1	0.1
Total	19.8	18.9

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