Changes to Legislation: as of 13 October 2026, this Act is up to date with all changes known to be in force.



Number 32 *of* 2007

COMMUNITY, RURAL AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2007

REVISED

Updated to 1 June 2025

This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the *Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007*. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the *Law Reform Commission Act 1975* (3/1975) to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.

All Acts up to and including the *Finance (Provision of Access to Cash Infrastructure) Act 2025* (4/2025), enacted 20 May 2025, and all statutory instruments up to and including the *Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) (No. 2) Order 2025* (S.I. No. 241 of 2025), made 4 June 2025, were considered in the preparation of this Revised Act.

Disclaimer: While every care has been taken in the preparation of this Revised Act, the Law Reform Commission can assume no responsibility for and give no guarantees, undertakings or warranties concerning the accuracy, completeness or up to date nature of the information provided and does not accept any liability whatsoever arising from any errors or omissions. Please notify any errors, omissions and comments by email to revisedacts@lawreform.ie.

Number 32 *of* 2007

COMMUNITY, RURAL AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2007

REVISED

Updated to 1 June 2025

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Definitions.
2. Functions of Minister.
3. Amendment of Third Schedule to Freedom of Information Act 1997.
3A. Minister for Social Protection to maintain certain schemes.
4. Amendment of section 8 of Western Development Commission Act 1998.
5. Amendment of section 2 of Act of 2003.
6. Amendment of section 3 of Act of 2003.
7. Repeal of Arramara Teoranta (Acquisition of Shares) Acts 1949 to 2002.
8. Expenses of Ministers.
9. Short title and collective citation.

SCHEDULE

Acts Repealed

ACTS REFERRED TO

Alginate Industries (Ireland) Limited (Acquisition of Shares) Act 1949	1949, No. 22
Alginate Industries (Ireland) Limited (Acquisition of Shares) Act 1954	1954, No. 29
Arramara Teoranta (Acquisition of Shares) Act 2002	2002, No. 11
Arramara Teoranta (Acquisition of Shares) Acts 1949 to 2002	
Freedom of Information Act 1997	1997, No. 13

Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Powers and Functions) Act 2003	2003, No. 39
Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2010	2010, No. 28
Terms of Employment (Information) Acts 1994 and 2001	
Western Development Commission Act 1998	1998, No. 42

Number 32 *of* 2007

COMMUNITY, RURAL AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2007

REVISED

Updated to 1 June 2025

AN ACT TO CONFIRM THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY, RURAL AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS, TO AMEND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1997, TO AMEND THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ACT 1998, TO AMEND THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY, RURAL AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS (POWERS AND FUNCTIONS) ACT 2003, TO REPEAL THE ARRAMARA TEORANTA (ACQUISITION OF SHARES) ACTS 1949 TO 2002, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

[9*th July*, 2007]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

Definitions.

1.— In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

"Act of 2003" means the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Powers and Functions) Act 2003;

"community development" includes local development and schemes that provide support for communities in order to enable them to improve the lives of the members of the communities;

"Department" means the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs;

"Minister" means the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs;

"National Drugs Strategy" means national strategies approved from time to time by the Government for the purposes of countering drug misuse in the State;

"rural development" includes—

(*a*) the promotion, fostering and support of economic, social and cultural activities in rural areas by the implementation of a broad range of schemes, and

(*b*) initiatives to sustain employment in, and assist in the prosperity of, rural areas;

"scheme" —

(*a*) means programmes or measures operated, managed, delivered or sponsored, whether in whole or in part, directly or indirectly or in conjunction or co-operation with any other person (including the European Union or any Department of State), by the Department in relation to the performance of any of the functions of the Minister specified in *section 2(1)*, and

(*b*) includes such programmes or measures provided to one community or rural area or to a class of communities or rural areas based on—

(i) the specific needs of that community or rural area or class of communities or rural areas, as the case may be,

(ii) the commonality of interests of that class of communities or rural areas, as the case may be, or

(iii) the geographical distribution of that class of communities or rural areas, as the case may be.

Functions of Minister.

2.— (1) Without prejudice to the generality of any other provision of this Act, or of any other enactment, conferring functions on the Minister, the functions of the Minister are and shall be deemed to always have been to—

(*a*) support and promote community development,

(*b*) support and promote voluntary activity and philanthropy,

(*c*) support and promote rural development,

(*d*) co-ordinate the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy (including matters relating to the allocation of services and facilities to counter drug misuse in areas of the State where such misuse is significantly higher than in other areas of the State),

(*e*) support and promote the Irish language, including the co-ordination of policy in this regard, and the development of the Gaeltacht and the Islands,

(*f*) support and promote North/South co-operation within the ambit of the Minister's functions (including functions under *paragraphs (a)* to *(e)*), and

(*g*) support and promote North/South co-operation in relation to Ulster Scots heritage, culture and language.

(2) The Minister may—

(*a*) with the consent of the Minister for Finance, develop and implement any scheme that, in the Minister's opinion, supports or promotes any function of the Minister (including functions specified in *subsection (1)*),

(*b*) maintain any scheme that, in the Minister's opinion, supports or promotes any such function,

(*c*) expand, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, any scheme.

(3) The Minister shall not be, or be deemed to be, an employer, within the meaning of the Terms of Employment (Information) Acts 1994 and 2001, by virtue only of the provision of funding to a person or persons under any scheme.

(4) Nothing in this section shall of itself be construed to—

(*a*) prevent the Minister from terminating any scheme, or

(*b*) limit the generality of any functions conferred (whether by an enactment or otherwise) on another Minister of State or Department or any other agency or body of State.

Amendment of Third Schedule to Freedom of Information Act 1997.

3.— The Third Schedule to the Freedom of Information Act 1997 is amended in Part 1 by—

(*a*) inserting "No. 42 of 1998" at the end of the first column of that Part,

(*b*) inserting "Western Development Commission Act 1998" at the end of the second column of that Part opposite the insertion made by *paragraph (a)*, and

(*c*) inserting "Section 18" in the third column of that Part opposite the insertion made by *paragraph (b)*.

F1[Minister for Social Protection to maintain certain schemes.

3A.— The Minister for Social Protection shall, under and in accordance with Part 4 of the Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2010, maintain—

(*a*) the scheme commonly known as the rural social scheme, and

(*b*) the programme commonly known as the community services programme.**]**

Amendment of section 8 of Western Development Commission Act 1998.

4.— Section 8(5) of the Western Development Commission Act 1998 is amended by substituting "€1,000,000" for "£250,000".

Amendment of section 2 of Act of 2003.

5.— Section 2(4) of the Act of 2003 is amended by substituting the following for paragraph (*b*):

"(*b*) the following:

(i) centres of population within a radius of 120 kilometres of that terminus specified in regulations made by the Minister with the consent of the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Transport;

(ii) centres of second level education specified in regulations made by the Minister, with the consent of the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Transport, where the Minister has reasonable grounds to believe, after consultation with the Minister for Education and Science, that the educational needs of the students concerned would be seriously prejudiced if such centres were not so specified; or

(iii) both centres referred to in subparagraph (i) and centres referred to in subparagraph (ii),".

Amendment of section 3 of Act of 2003.

6.— Section 3(1)(*b*) and (*c*) of the Act of 2003 is amended by deleting "any such".

Repeal of Arramara Teoranta (Acquisition of Shares) Acts 1949 to 2002.

7.— The Acts specified in the Schedule are repealed.

Expenses of Ministers.

8.— (1) The expenses incurred by the Minister in the administration of this Act shall, to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Minister for Finance, be paid out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

(2) The expenses incurred by the Minister for Finance in the administration of this Act shall be paid out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

Short title and collective citation.

9.— (1) This Act may be cited as the Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007.

(2) The Western Development Commission Act 1998 and *section 4* may be cited together as the Western Development Commission Acts 1998 and 2007.

(3) The Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Powers and Functions) Act 2003 and *sections 5* and *6* may be cited together as the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Powers and Functions) Acts 2003 and 2007.

Section 7.

SCHEDULE

Acts Repealed

1. Alginate Industries (Ireland) Limited (Acquisition of Shares) Act 1949.
2. Alginate Industries (Ireland) Limited (Acquisition of Shares) Act 1954.
3. Arramara Teoranta (Acquisition of Shares) Act 2002.

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COMMUNITY, RURAL AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2007

REVISED

Updated to 1 June 2025

About this Revised Act

This Revised Act presents the text of the Act as it has been amended since enactment, and preserves the format in which it was first passed.

Related legislation

Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Powers and Functions) Acts 2003 and 2007: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation (*Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007* (32/2007), s. 9(3)). The Acts in the group are:

- *Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Powers and Functions) Act 2003* (39/2003)
- *Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007* (32/2007), ss. 5, 6

Western Development Commission Acts 1998 and 2007: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation (*Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007* (32/2007), s. 9(2)). The Acts in the group are:

- *Western Development Commission Act 1998* (42/1998)
- *Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007* (32/2007), s. 4

Annotations

This Revised Act is not annotated and only shows textual amendments. An annotated version of this revision is also available which shows textual and non-textual amendments and their sources. It also shows editorial notes including statutory instruments made pursuant to the Act and previous affecting provisions.

Material not updated in this revision

Where other legislation is amended by this Act, those amendments may have been superseded by other amendments in other legislation, or the amended legislation may have been repealed or revoked. This information is not represented in this revision but will be reflected in a revision of the amended legislation if one is available. A list of legislative changes to any Act, and to statutory instruments from 1972, may be found linked from the page of the Act or statutory instrument at

www.irishstatutebook.ie.