



**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**

Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

MIN-Guide meeting Ireland Exploration and Mining Division

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What's your story

- Ireland has a long history of mining going back to the bronze age
- Minerals Development Acts 1940 to 1999
 - Tried and tested
- Exploration and Mining Division: 4 Technical people and 4 administration
- Broad outline of exploration licences
- Rank 1st for policy in the Fraser Institute for minerals policy



Outline provided by Min-Guide

1. What's your story
 - Problem setting of the policy
 - Rationale for developing the policy
 - Major stimulant/driver for its development
2. Major building blocks of the policy
 - Major objectives
 - 3 most important/unique features of the policy
3. Designing the policy
 - The initiating/main responsible organisation and supporting actors
 - One major success factor during design
 - One major challenge or obstacle during design
 - Describe the response to these challenges (decisions/measures)
4. Implementing the policy
 - The implementation policy
 - One major success factor during implementation
 - One major challenge or obstacle during implementation – describe the response to these challenges (decisions/measures)
5. What is your sequel?
 - Next Steps/future development
 - Future expectations/challenges



What's your story

- Problem setting of the policy:
 - Legislation in place since the 1940s
 - Adapting to other legislation and developments
- Rationale for developing the policy:
 - Developing our natural resources
 - 1940 and 1960s
- Major stimulant/driver for its development:
 - Long history of exploration and mining
 - Development of legislation over decades
 - Stimulant and driver has varied over time



Major Building block

- Major objectives:
 - Already discussed in rationale above
- Three most important/unique features of the policy:
 - Transparent – one stop shop
 - Significant data base made available over the web free of charge. After six years or when the Prospecting Licence is surrendered whichever is sooner the data provided by Companies is publically released and available free of charge over the web.
 - Security of tenure



Designing the policy

- The initiating/main responsible organisation and supporting actors:
 - Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment Exploration and Mining Division.
 - EPA, Local Authorities, Inland Fisheries, NPWS, Community
- One major success factor during design:
 - Continued exploration
 - Remediation
- One major challenge or obstacle during design:
 - Environmental legislation to be complied with
 - Aarhus legislation
- Describe the response to these challenges (decisions/measures):
 - Implementing screening for all exploration activities prior to any taking place



Implementing the policy - 1

- The implementation policy:
 - Forms and guidelines on the website www.mineralsireland.ie and www.dccae.gov.ie
 - Various categories of Prospecting Licence e.g. incentive PLs
 - First come first served basis
 - Advertised in the local newspaper – public involvement
 - Commitments must be met - exploration programme and expenditures
 - All activities screened for environmental impact
 - Activities reviewed every two years
 - Data made publically available after 6 years or when the PL is surrendered



Implementing the policy - 2

- One major success factor during implementation:
 - Continued exploration
- One major challenge or obstacle during implementation – describe the response to these challenges (decisions/measures):
 - Environmental legislation and the Aarhus Convention
 - Process put in place to screen all activities upon application with additional screening for certain activities or in certain locations.



What is your sequel?

- Next Steps/future development:
 - New Minerals Bill to be enacted either later this year or early next year.
- Future expectations/challenges:
 - I would hope Ireland will continue to have an active exploration and mining sector
 - New mines will be developed
 - Management of new legislation



Thank you for listening

