

## SUPPORT AGENCIES

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The Exploration and Mining Division of The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment is the key reference point for the exploration and mining industry, providing data and available for advice and assistance from arrival in Ireland through to the opening and operating of a mine.

There are also a number of other Agencies which provide support services to the exploration and mining industries. These Agencies include:

The Geological Survey of Ireland. This is a Division of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and is Ireland's national geoscience agency whose mandate is to acquire and disseminate geoscience data and information. The work programmes of the Geological Survey are divided into Bedrock Mapping, Quaternary Geology and Geotechnical, Groundwater, Minerals, Marine and Heritage.

The Minerals Programme comprises three principal activities, namely, Minerals Databases; Historic Mine Sites (HMS) and Aggregate Potential Mapping (APM). The primary Minerals Databases are Mineral Occurrences (5,500 sites), Mineral Assessment Reports (7,000 reports) and Mine Records (200 sites). Access to these is either through the GSI website Map Viewers and download facilities or through visiting the GSI offices. Having completed an environmental assessment of closed and abandoned mine sites the HMS project is now conducting a safety audit of these sites. This work will identify those sites with mine related features which cause or may cause a safety hazard to the public. APM is a programme identifying those areas likely to contain aggregate resources (both granular and crushed rock aggregates). Information is being collated in a geographic information system and made available on line on the Department's website (<http://spatial.dcenr.gov.ie/APM/index.html>). Approximately half of the country has been assessed to date.

Enterprise Ireland co-ordinates all services and supports needed to ensure that exploration and mining companies have a trouble free and efficient start-up or expansion. It helps local industry to build competitive advantage and provides an experienced and professional 'one stop shop'

to anticipate and meet companies tax, financial, legal, employment and marketing needs.

Within Europe Ireland is the ideal location for Shared Services Centres. Operating costs are amongst the lowest in Europe. Ireland, as a full member of the European Union, affords companies open access to a market of 370 million people. By consolidating corporate administration and support services in Ireland, cost savings of up to 50% can be achieved.

The Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) represents and provides economic, commercial, employee relations and social affairs services to exploration and mining companies through its Irish Mining and Exploration Group (IMEG). The Confederation represents its members' interests to government, state agencies, the trade unions and the general public. Through its Brussels office, the Irish Business Bureau, it works to ensure that European minerals policy is compatible with the interests and objectives of its members.

The International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) was established in Dublin in 1987 and has developed into a significant world financial centre. The Centre is serviced by an extensive network of major international banks, brokerages and professional advisors. IFSC operations benefit from a 12.5% Corporation Tax rate, supported by an excellent tax treaty network and efficient regulatory environment. Over 400 of the world's leading financial institutions, including Merrill Lynch and Citibank, have set up new operations in the IFSC.

There are also several active geological organisations in Ireland which provide stimulating technical fora for exploration and mining company personnel. These include the Irish Association for Economic Geology, which has published seminal works on Irish mineral deposits and organised major international symposia, the Irish Mining and Quarrying Society, catering primarily for the extraction industry, and the Institute of Geologists of Ireland which is affiliated to the European Federation of Geologists and has a reciprocal arrangement with the American Institute of Professional Geologists.



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 1993. The Agency's task is to protect the water, air and land of Ireland in partnership with others assisting Ireland to achieve sustainable economic growth which takes account of environmental and social needs. Its mandate covers a wide range of activities including mining. The EPA implements European Community (EC) Directives on behalf of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and is also the national focal point for all European Environment Agency (EEA) activities in Ireland.

It is obligatory for mining developments to obtain Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licences from the Agency. All aspects of air and water pollution, noise and waste are covered by this single integrated licence. In granting an

IPC licence, the EPA must be satisfied that 'best available technology not entailing excessive costs' (BATNEEC) will be used to prevent or limit emissions. The Agency has compiled BATNEEC Guidance Notes for mining.

In the wider European interest, Euromines is a Belgian registered federation of European mining companies and national European mining associations. Euromines promotes the interests of the mining industry, metal ores and industrial minerals sectors at all levels of EU authority. Euromines also provides a network of information and co-operation among its membership and with mining interests outside the European Community.

## Addresses

### Contact information on the Agencies is provided below

Exploration and Mining Division (EMD)  
Department of Communications, Climate Action  
and Environment  
29-31 Adelaide Road  
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Tel: + 353-1-678 2000  
Website: [www.dccae.gov.ie](http://www.dccae.gov.ie)

Geological Survey of Ireland  
Beggars Bush  
Haddington Road  
Dublin  
D04 K7X4  
Tel: +353-1-6782000 Fax: +353-1- 668 1782  
Website: [www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie)

Enterprise Ireland  
East Point Business Park  
Dublin 3  
D03 E5R6  
Tel: +353-1-7272000 Fax: +353-1-7272020  
Website: [www.entreprise-ireland.com](http://www.entreprise-ireland.com)

Irish Business and Employers Confederation  
(IBEC)  
Confederation House  
84-86 Lower Baggot Street  
Dublin 2  
Tel: +353-1-6051500 Fax: +353-1-6381500  
Website: [www.ibec.ie](http://www.ibec.ie)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
P.O. Box 3000  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
Co. Wexford  
Y35 W821  
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Website: [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

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Institution of Geologists of Ireland  
63 Merrion Square,  
Dublin,  
D02 TW21  
Ireland  
Website: [www.igi.ie](http://www.igi.ie)

Irish Association for Economic Geology  
Website: [www.iaeg.org](http://www.iaeg.org)

Irish Mining and Quarrying Society  
The Lucan Centre  
Primrose Lane  
Lucan  
Co. Dublin  
Tel: +353-894927942  
Website: [www.imqs.ie](http://www.imqs.ie)