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Fire and Security Newsletter from
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for protecting your business premises

VOLUME 3

“HERITAGE UNDER FIRE” PROTECTING HISTORICAL BUILDINGS & CULTURE



Fire & Safety



Alarms



CCTV



Access Control



Maintenance



Monitoring

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“Heritage Under Fire”

Protecting Historical Buildings & Culture



It has been announced that 85 heritage projects are to benefit from a total of €3m under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2021.

In addition to supporting owners of historic structures in maintaining and safeguarding their properties, the funding will also provide a welcome boost to local construction and heritage trades by facilitating works with a total value of almost €9m and leveraging an estimated 13,000 days' labour.

The HSF is one of two built heritage funding schemes run by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in association with the thirty-one local authorities. Through grants ranging from €15,000 to €200,000, the HSF assists owners of historic structures, including those on the Record of Protected Structures and those in Architectural Conservation Areas, to meet their obligations to maintain their properties.

The projects being granted funding under the HSF 2021 include a wide variety of building types including:

- A former railway station in County Monaghan
- A Napoleonic fort in County Offaly
- An iron work bridge in County Dublin; an early nineteenth-century stable yard in County Roscommon
- An early twentieth-century reinforced concrete grain store in County Sligo
- An early eighteenth-century country house in County Donegal



Wireless Fire Alarms in Historical Buildings

Before wireless fire alarms, historical sites provided a unique set of concerns for the installation or upgrade of fire alarm systems because of their cultural and architectural importance. Apart from the building being constructed from mortar and bricks, these kinds of architectural structures are frequently resident to invaluable pieces of art as well as irreplaceable treasures whose loss or destruction would be catastrophic.

An example of this was the fire at Windsor Castle back in 1992, the building had a fire alarm and alerted those on site of the fire, but the fire still caused extensive damage running into the millions.

However, with the need to detect the fire as early as possible and raise the alarm, there are still many Historical or Valuable Buildings that either has no fire alarm or a system that does not contain sufficient automatic detection to provide the necessary cover.

The reason for this could be the difficulty posed in the process of trying to install or upgrade a wired fire alarm system. However, now there is a solution, which is a fully compliant ADAM Security wireless fire alarm system.

Any property pre-dating 1700 is generally awarded Grade I status, with Grade II status solely being given to structures of importance established right up until mid-20th century. Any physical alterations to these kinds of structures have to have special authorization and care and attention has to be used to install new equipment.

Features of that time, for example, lavish ceilings, balustrades, fireplaces and room decorations challenge the fire alarm specialist to discover imaginative methods to maintain the appearance of the property whilst safeguarding contents along with the property itself from fire.

Historical buildings usually have only a little space for appliances and accessibility concerns make installation, repairs, servicing and testing challenging to perform.

As well as the aesthetic challenges, buildings like these frequently have significant amounts of tourists where fatalities would be substantial. Therefore, it is critical that a building of this type has a reliable and an intrusive form of fire protection.

Due to the high level of visitors and members of the public, false alarms should be prevented by any means as this will cause major disruption to the operation of the building.

The type of fire alarm suited to provide the required level of fire detection, and overcome the challenges mentioned above is to specify a fully compliant wireless fire alarm system.



Wireless fire alarms are proving to be the cost-effective solution to many of the Historical buildings that require a flexible, compliant and easy to install fire alarm and detection system.

All the smoke detectors, manual call points and sounders can be installed in accordance with the fire alarm design and are able to communicate wirelessly back to their base station or control panel.

To ensure that wireless systems perform as reliably as their wired counterpart, a new European product code for wireless systems was introduced called EN54-25 in 2011 and is now enforced as of 2013.

However, making sure you purchase the correct equipment is only half the problem solved, you also need to ensure you use a genuine wireless fire alarm specialist who has many years' experience and successful installations.

ADAM Security Ltd are specialists in this area fast becoming the leader in wireless fire alarm & detection installations.

ADAM Security Fire Alarm Monitoring

A fire alarm can be either "Stand-Alone" or Monitored.

A Stand-Alone system will alert the occupants locally within the building using audible and visual indicators.

A monitored system can also alert the occupants locally but will automatically send a signal to our Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) informing our trained personnel in the ARC that the fire alarm has activated.

The ARC will then follow the predefined instructions given in the event of receiving a signal; this would include to call the Fire & Rescue Service and the building keyholders.

Having your fire alarm monitored professionally by ADAM Security has the advantage that the Fire and Emergency Service are automatically contacted immediately and without having to rely on anyone making the call.

The early calling of the Fire & Emergency service can be vital when saving lives or reducing damage to property.

A little bit of Irish History

The Creation of Dublin As A City

Until the middle of the 17th century, Dublin was essentially a small walled medieval city, marked by the existence of a particular style of buildings and built on narrow winding streets.

The first major changes to this pattern occurred during the reign of King Charles II, when the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of Ormonde, decided that the front of buildings, including residential homes, should face the River Liffey, with a street running along each quay.

In the years prior to that, buildings backed onto the river, allowing for the dumping of household waste, including sewage.

The Four Courts in Dublin.

With this new development, three and four-story buildings sprung up along the quays, including the Four Courts.

But this was only one change that needed to happen.

Following that, the streets required major redevelopment, which eventually came about as a result of the Wide Streets Commission.

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Soon after, new residential areas were developed, leading to the Georgian neighbourhoods we see in Dublin today.

O'Connell Bridge was also erected at the time, as were Westmoreland and D'Olier streets, in addition to an area called Hoggen Green, which of course is now known as College Street that faces Trinity College.





Dublin Castle

Dublin Castle was the first of many buildings in the city to undergo a transformation from its former medieval structure to a grand Georgian palace.

Georgian Dublin Emerges

An 18th-century property boom led to the building of the Georgian homes that tourists are now drawn to.



Henrietta Street

The earliest of these homes appeared on Henrietta Street, which at the time was a popular area for Dublin's elite, including judges, barristers, and bishops, all of them Protestant.

Henrietta Street in Dublin contains some of the oldest and largest Georgian-style houses in the city.



The initial years of the Georgian era were concentrated in the city's north side, but a move by the Earl of Kildare to what was seen at the time as the "inferior" south side, changed everything.

Kildare House (renamed Leinster House)

When his Dublin townhouse, Kildare House (renamed Leinster House) was finished, it was the envy of many.

Today, it serves as the location for Ireland's parliament ("Oireachtas").

While sadly many of the Georgian residences were torn down in what was seen as a rebellion against former British rule, many have remained and are now part of the city's rich cultural history.





Politics Changes Dublin's Architectural Landscape

When the Act of Union was passed in 1801, a lot of Dublin's elite saw no reason to stay in their palatial Georgian mansions.

They instead moved to London, where the government there ruled both England and Ireland. If they did return to Dublin, it was only for a short period, most likely for the social season, which took place from January through March 17th of each year.

The rich began to sell their Georgian properties on the north side of the city, plunging Dublin into an economic crisis.

The only solution was to rent the homes to the poor, ultimately turning the buildings in places like Mountjoy Square into tenements.

By the 1960s, several buildings were condemned and subsequently demolished.

Georgian-era houses in Mountjoy Square

This was a tragic turn of events for an area of Dublin that had been fashionable with many famous residents, including writers Sean O'Casey, WB Yeats, and James Joyce.

The nationalist Patrick (Padraic) Pearse met at one of the buildings in Mountjoy Square leading up to the Easter Rising of 1916.

In the years following Ireland's independence as a Free State (1922), there was little interest in the city's Georgian buildings, which is why many of them were neglected.



There are plenty of public buildings that are Georgian in style, too. They include the following:

- The Custom House, considered to be one of the most important architectural buildings in the city.
- The Four Courts
- The Rotunda Hospital (Europe's first maternity hospital, which was built in 1750).
- Leinster House
- Aras an Uachtaráin, the home of the president of Ireland.
- The Royal Hospital Kilmainham, the oldest classical building in Ireland
- Parliament House, home at one time to the parliament of Ireland and now the headquarters of the Bank of Ireland.
- The Collins Barracks, which now houses the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History.

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