



PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

IT-TNAX-IL LEGIŻLATURA

P.L. 8699

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Skrivan tal-Kamra

Annual Report 2016

Superintendence of Cultural Heritage



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI

SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

1. Data Management

The National Inventory

The Mission Statement of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is to fulfill the duties of the State to ensure the protection and accessibility of cultural heritage as defined in the Cultural Heritage Act 2002.

Article 7 of the Cultural Heritage Act requires the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage to compile a National Inventory of cultural property in the Maltese Islands.

In 2011 the Superintendence published a first installment of the inventory records in the Government Gazette. Data inputting online of the Cultural Heritage Inventory Management System (CHIMS) also proceeded in parallel. In 2016 the Superintendence was not in a position to publish any new inventory records on the Government Gazette or on CHIMS due to a lack of resources and other more pressing commitments. At present a total of 2,412 sites and monuments have been published by the Superintendence on the Government Gazette, while 4,087 records have been recorded on CHIMS, as shown on the following tables:

Sites published in Government Gazette by Theme	Number of records
Historical, military and archaeological sites	25
Historical and archaeological sites	35
Knights Fortifications	389
Scheduled Property	125
Chapels and Niches	1,838
Total	2,412

Records uploaded on CHIMS by Theme	Total
Heritage Sites	2492
Archaeological Interventions	10
Artefacts	1568
Guardianship Deeds	15
Total	4,087

2. Land use and Planning Matters

Consultations regarding land use and development applications

Legal Changes in the Planning Process (2016) - The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is a designated statutory external consultee to the Planning Authority regarding land use and development applications. The assessment of such applications and the provision of the statutory consultations required by the Planning Authority is currently the single most onerous commitment of the Superintendence.

This regulatory and consultative function of the Superintendence on development applications is established in the first instance by the Cultural Heritage Act 2002. With the MEPA demerger of 2016, consultation between the Planning Authority and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage has been redefined with the Development Planning Act of 2016, as implemented by Legal Notice 162 of 2016, Development Planning (Procedure for Applications and their Determination) Regulations.

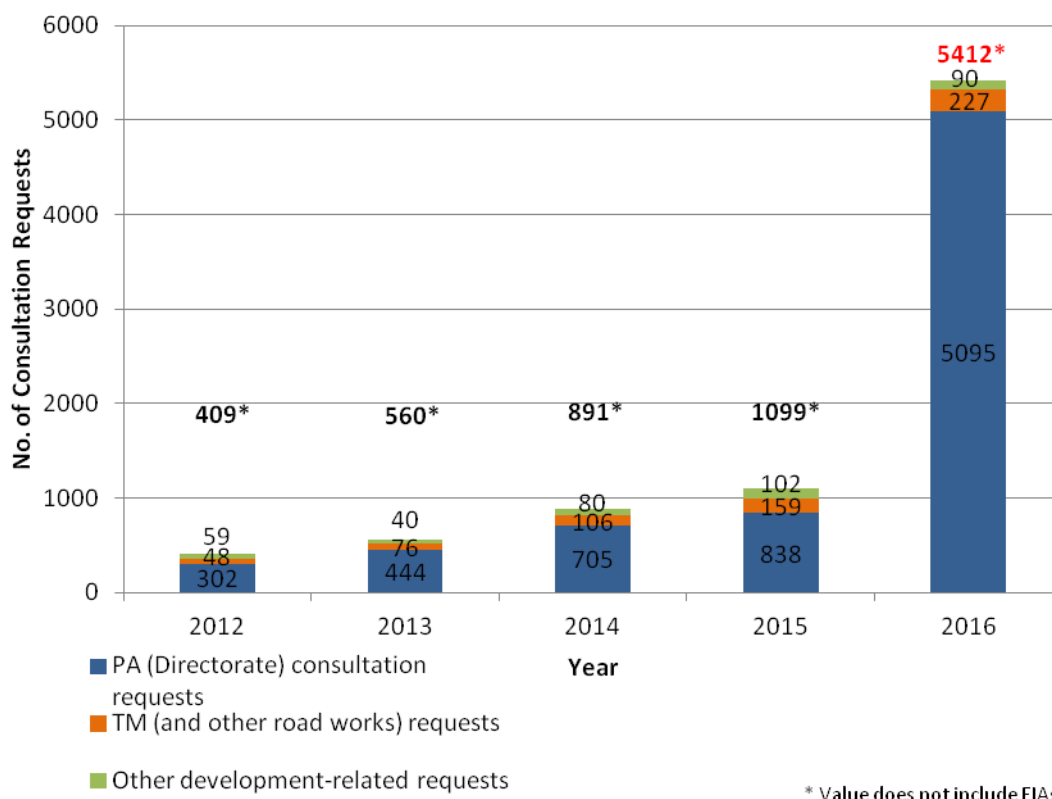
The legal reform of the Planning Authority and of its procedures has also resulted in an important change in the role and functions of the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (CHAC). Under the former planning legislation the CHAC was an internal body to the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and provided its advice on cultural heritage to the Planning Directorate.

Since May 2016 the CHAC was reassigned to support the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. The committee is now chaired by the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage, and has now assumed an advisory role directly to the Superintendence. The members of the CHAC were confirmed by the Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government on 2 May 2016 by means of a note published in the Government Gazette of 6 May 2016.

From May to December 2016, the CHAC held 26 meetings and provided recommendations to the Superintendence on 307 development applications. These recommendations also included a number of weekly site inspections.

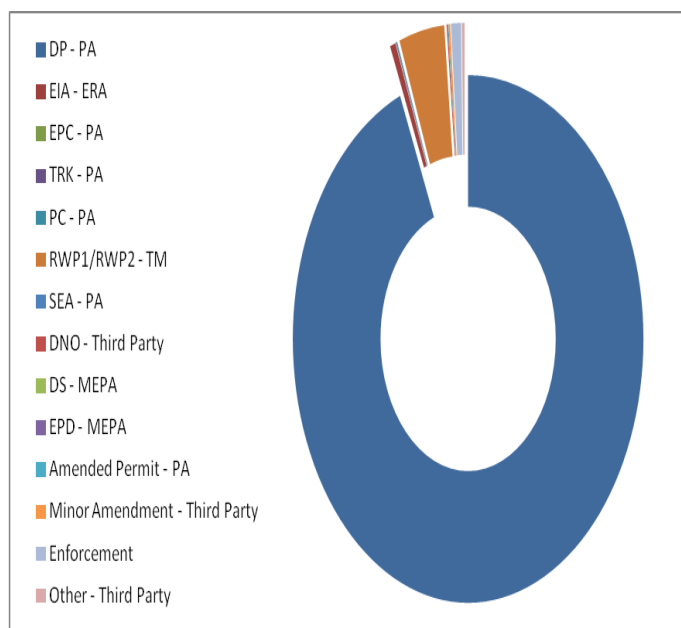
Changes to the Planning Procedures – The legal changes outlined above have resulted in a drastic surge in 2016 in the number of planning applications referred to the Superintendence. The number of development applications received by the Superintendence has increased from the 1,099 cases registered

in 2015, to a total of 5,440 in 2016, as shown in the table below. This almost five-fold increase is a direct result of the new planning regulations which came into force in May 2016.



Over 96% of the development consultation requests received in 2016 originated from the Planning Authority, with the remaining 4% originating from Transport Malta and other third parties as shown in more detail in the table below.

Type of Consultation Received	2016
DP – PA	5095
EIA – ERA	28
EPC – PA	1
TRK – PA	3
PC – PA	4
RWP1/RWP2 – TM	227
SEA – PA	0
DNO - Third Party	6
DS – PA	0
EPD – PA	0
Amended Permit – PA	4
Minor Amend. - Third Party	8
Enforcement	50
Other - Third Party	14



In 2016 the assessment of the planning and land use applications, and the surveillance and regulation of development works occupied over 70% of the human resources of the Superintendence. This surge of consultations necessitated the recruitment of two new officers within the Superintendence. The total staff complement of the Superintendence by the end of 2016 stood at 14 officers.

All planning applications referred to the Superintendence are analyzed for potential physical and visual impacts to both archaeological and architectural monuments. Possible negative impacts on UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Monuments are also assessed. At law, each application requires a response to be issued within 30 calendar days of the publication date, or 15 days from the receipt of the PA consultation letter, depending on the type of development application or on the stage reached by a given application in the planning process. Within this time frame, the Superintendence officers must fully assess the submitted technical documents, as well as carry out site inspections, meetings with PA officials, architects and developers.

A substantial amount of the development applications referred to the Superintendence in 2016 dealt with large-scale projects. Such cases can involve either major infrastructural initiatives, as well as conservation and restoration projects on cultural monuments of national importance. Major development applications require a more intensive treatment and response by the Superintendence. Detailed discussions and site inspections are regularly carried out with the interested national bodies, including Transport Malta, Grand Harbour Regeneration Committee, Heritage Malta, Restoration Directorate, Local Councils, Non-Governmental Organizations, as well as with Ministries and government departments.

Some of the main development applications, including major infrastructural or restoration projects, tackled by the Superintendence in 2016 are listed in the following table:

Site at	Project Description
Palazzino at 55, Triq L- Ifran, Valletta - PA 01207/15	Proposal for change of use to a boutique hotel and internal alterations. Design changes requested by the Superintendence aimed to mitigate the visual impact of the development on the existing skyline and streetscape. Ground clearance uncovered original foundation arches and a water management system that required the relocation of the approved lift.

<p>Maria Addolorata Cemetery, Tal-Horr, Paola - PA 02552/14</p>	<p>Proposal for a major extension of the cemetery including the construction of an extension of the boundary wall that would require a perforation in the cemetery's original west wall. Discussions with the architect resulted in a change of design which better respected the nineteenth century Neo-Gothic layout of the south entrance that was designed by E.L.Galizia.</p>
<p>St. Paul's Missionary College, Triq Sant' Agata, Rabat - PA 00089/16</p>	<p>Construction of a sports pavilion at St Paul's Missionary College. An archaeological assessment of the area identified a number of previously undocumented catacombs in the area. The design of the sports pavilion was redesigned to ensure that catacombs are preserved and would remain accessible.</p>
<p>Palazzo Perellos, Triq S. Kristofru /Triq Sant' Ursula, Valletta - PA 04327/15</p>	<p>Proposed change of use to a boutique hotel, including restoration of existing property together with alterations and the addition of one floor. The Superintendence objected to the increase in height and volume to this historical palazzo and to the loss of historic fabric as a result of the proposed internal alterations.</p>
<p>St. John's Co-Cathedral Museum, Valletta - PA 00472/15</p>	<p>Extension and refurbishment of St John's Co-Cathedral Museum. The Superintendence made recommendations to ensure that the streetscapes and skylines are preserved and enhanced.</p>
<p>Il-Maċina, Triq It-Tarzna, Senglea - PA 03729/15</p>	<p>Conversion of the historic Maċina into a guest house and retail outlets. The Superintendence made recommendations to minimize the visual impact of the proposed development at roof top level.</p>
<p>Birgu Regatta Club, Triq Il-Mandraġġ, Vittoriosa - PA00114/16</p>	<p>Internal alterations at ground floor level to house a catering establishment and a second floor hall. The intervention of the Superintendence led to the lowering of the overall height of the proposed development and to an improvement in the proposed design of the façade.</p>
<p>British Building at Dock 1, Ix-Xatt Ta' Bormla, Cospicua - PA 03387/13</p>	<p>Restoration of the external facades of the British Building at Dock 1, Bormla. The Superintendence, together with the Planning Authority, intervened to ensure the protection of a number of historical fixtures, both internally and on the façade, and to retain them in place.</p>
<p>St. Francis Friary, Triq San Frangisk, Rabat - PA 03028/15</p>	<p>Proposal for the installation of a lift within the cloister of the friary. The Superintendence objected to the proposed lift due to its negative aesthetic impact on the architectural value of the cloister.</p>
<p>Auberge d'Italie, Valletta – PA 01399/15</p>	<p>Development of MUŻA - The relocation of the National Museum of Fine Arts to the Auberge d'Italie, including the restoration and reuse of the historical auberge and various structural alterations both to facades and interiors. The Superintendence recommended the redesign of the project, particularly to ensure that the streetscape from the side of Pjazza de Vallette is not negatively visually impacted. The Superintendence also intervened to protect the 1930s courtyard of the auberge from the proposed demolition and replacement with a glass and metal structure.</p>

<p>Site at Sprachcaffe Village Club, Triq Alamein/Triq Giorgio Mitrovich, Pembroke - PA 05532/10</p>	<p>Proposed construction of a new block for residential purposes as part of the existing English language school. The proposal as initially submitted had an impact on the military complex. Amendments to the proposal addressed the aesthetic impact on the scheduled buildings.</p>
<p>It-Torri ta' San Tumas, Dawret it-Torri, Marsascula - PA 03604/15</p>	<p>Proposal for the rehabilitation and restoration of the tower, including the creation of museum services, installation of a panoramic lift and a roof top viewing platform and reinstatement of the ditch. Detailed assessment of the application was made to ensure that no damage is caused to the historic fabric.</p>
<p>Grand Masters Palace, Valletta - PA 00552/16</p>	<p>Proposed reuse of the Grandmasters Palace, including relocation of the Armoury to first floor, creation of visitors' facilities and improvement of access. The Superintendence recommended an alternative route to ensure the protection of the historical windows at first floor level while providing access for all.</p>
<p>The Ritirata, San Salvatore Bastion Area, Floriana - PA 00803/16</p>	<p>Proposed galleries to house the Malta International Contemporary Art Space and ancillary spaces including administration offices and restaurant with kitchen and kiosk. The Superintendence requested further information to assess the possible impacts of the proposal. Application still being assessed.</p>
<p>Phoenicia Hotel, The Mall, Floriana - PA 04613/15</p>	<p>Amendments to an existing permit included change of use and internal minor alterations. Design had to be amended to ensure the preservation of a Knight's Period caponier found during the monitoring of construction works by the Superintendence.</p>
<p>Pjazza San Ġwann, Valletta - PA 00915/16</p>	<p>Proposed construction of a monument in honor of Ġirolamo Cassar and Francesco Laparelli. The Superintendence made recommendations for the proposed monument to be relocated to Pjazza Teatru Rjal due to the negative visual impact it would have caused to the facade of St. John's Co-Cathedral.</p>
<p>Pjazza Teatru Rjali, Triq ir-Repubblika, Valletta - PA 01914/15</p>	<p>The installation of reversible installations to improve connectivity and circulation within the theatre. The Superintendence ensured that the installations would not impact on the historical fabric and rock-cut features within the building.</p>
<p>Site at Maċina, Triq it-Tarzna, Senglea - PA 01059/16</p>	<p>Floating restaurant beside the deck of Maċina. The Superintendence noted that although mitigations will be undertaken to avoid impacting the seabed and any archaeological remains which might still survive, the proposed development will create a semi-permanent volume in front of the Maċina, impacting on this iconic view.</p>
<p>Site at 'Sunflower', Triq 28 Ta' April 1688, Xagħra - PA 04577/15</p>	<p>Construction of a terraced house to cover party wall within the Outside Development Zone falling within the Area of Archaeological Importance of Ġgantija and the Xagħra Stone Circle. The Superintendence recommended that a re-assessment of the area is carried out to define the boundaries of the cultural heritage landscape. The management of this cultural landscape should be further defined in terms of a specific area policy.</p>

Site at Triq Il-Kastell, Victoria - PA 01086/16	Proposal for the demolition of an existing building and the construction of a three storey parking area including new access road to parking levels and pedestrian walkway to the Ċittadella. Following discussions, the building will be retained and integrated into the revised proposal. Archaeological investigations on site are to be undertaken to assess area.
Zammit Clapp Hospital, Triq Reggie Miller, San Ġiljan - PA 00999/16	Restoration of facades and chapel and replacement of apertures. The Superintendence made recommendations about the colour scheme to be used for the apertures to improve visual impact of refurbished façade.
Admiralty House, South Street c/w, Triq Nofs In-Nhar, Valletta - PA 01140/16	Restoration of facades on South Street and Old Mint Street, internal alterations and change of use from museum to offices. The proposed lift had to be relocated since the original location would have resulted in the destruction of ceilings with historical mouldings.
Valletta University Campus, Triq San Pawl, Valletta - PA 02012/15	To install a retractable metal and glass lightweight roof over courtyard and repaving of courtyard. The proposed design was considered aesthetically and architecturally incompatible with the scheduled property. It was recommended to seek alternative roofing solutions.
Site at British Building Dock 1, Ix-Xatt Ta' Bormla, Cospicua - PA 01189/16	Change of use of the British Building to an educational institution consisting of the reconstruction of missing original volumes, internal alterations and extensions, including the addition of an extra floor. A number of recommendations were made to improve all over visual impact of the new interventions with the older structures.
Xagħra Football Ground, Triq Il-Maqdes, Xagħra - PA 02449/15	Proposed extension to the existing sports and recreational facilities. The Superintendence consulted with Heritage Malta as the site managers responsible for the Ġgantija Megalithic Temples. The Superintendence recommended refusal due to the high visual impact of the proposed development.
Teatru Astra, Triq Ir-Repubblika, Victoria - PA 01907/15	Proposed installation of photovoltaic panels. Discussions with the applicant and the Planning Authority led to mitigation measures to lessen the visual impact of the proposal when viewed from Ċittadella.
Outer Argotti Gardens, Triq Vincenzo Bugeja, Floriana - PA 03337/15	Rehabilitation of outer Argotti Gardens, including construction of an information centre, the relocation of toilets, paving works, repairs to walls and pilasters and other works. An archaeological evaluation was carried out to ensure new works will not damage buried structures within the gardens.
Biskuttin Garden and adjacent pavement, Floriana i.c.w. DNO	Upgrading of Biskuttin Garden and adjacent pavement. Project was reviewed to ensure visuals to City Gate are not impacted and underlying historical remains respected.
Muscat Motors, Triq D'Argens, Gżira - PA 01638/16	Proposal for the redesign of the façade and access, including the introduction of cladding and signage to the façade of the scheduled building (industrial heritage). The Superintendence

	recommended refusal of the proposal due to the visual impact on the scheduled building.
6 & 7, Triq Tal- Hlas, Qormi - PA 02771/16	Proposed construction of a piano nobile to an existing palazzo. Minor alterations to existing farmhouses and the construction of a pool. The proposed development was not acceptable in view of the high architectural value of the property. The Superintendence recommended that the historical building is scheduled at Grade 2 for its protection.
Property at 92-99, Triq San Kristofru c/w Triq Id-Dejqa, Valletta - PA 02828/16	Installation of timber shop-fronts and lightweight outdoor theatre stage, theatre boxes and theatre infrastructure.
National Library Building, 34-36, Triq it-Tezorerija c/w Triq it-Teatru c/w Misraħ Ir-Repubblika, Valletta - PA 02991/16	To install passenger lift to National Library and internal alterations at ground floor level for Local Council offices, Local Library and Clinic including non-illuminated signs. The proposed lift was relocated to a less sensitive part of the building on the Superintendence's recommendation.
57, Triq Tigne c/w Triq Pace, Sliema - PA 00473/15	Demolition of existing building and construction of apartment block. The Superintendence intervened to protect the visual integrity of a block of Art Deco.
Bishop's Palace, 27, Triq Il-Palazz ta' l-Isqof, Vittoriosa - PA 03994/16	Proposed change of use from residential to boutique hotel including structural alterations. The Superintendence requested additional historical research on the building to guide planning decisions. The requested research is still being prepared.
Marsa Government Garage, Triq Troubridge c/w, Triq Il-Bicċerija, Marsa - PA 03062/16	Excavation to the required levels and construction of the Malta Carnival Experience. Archaeological investigations and monitoring were imposed to ensure any archaeological remains in the area are respected.
Imperial Hotel, Rudolph Street, Sliema - TRK 162286	Proposal for the change of use from a hotel to an old people's home. Proposal was assessed to ensure that the historical front part of the building is protected and integrated into the new development.
Blackley Buildings, Our Lady of Sorrows Street c/w Gwardamangia Hill, Pieta - PA 04993/16	Restoration and rehabilitation of Blackley Bakery, including the change of use to offices and residences, the retention and restoration of the facades of Kingston House and workers' dwellings. The Superintendence assessed the current application to ensure that is in line with its earlier recommendations for the protection of this industrial heritage site.
Site at The Cloisters, Triq Imrabat c/w Triq is-Sorijiet, San Giljan - PA 05004/16	Application for the conversion of existing scheduled building into a boutique hotel and restaurant. The Superintendence recommended that the extension over the scheduled building was to be redesigned to be more in keeping with the existing historical fabric and streetscape.
Old Farsons Brewery, Triq Notabile and Triq San Ġwakkin, Birkirkara - PA 02764/16	Restoration & rehabilitation of the old brew house to use as a visitors' centre and museum with ancillary offices and various snack bars, including internal alterations and addition of new recessed level. Proposal was assessed to ensure that the historical

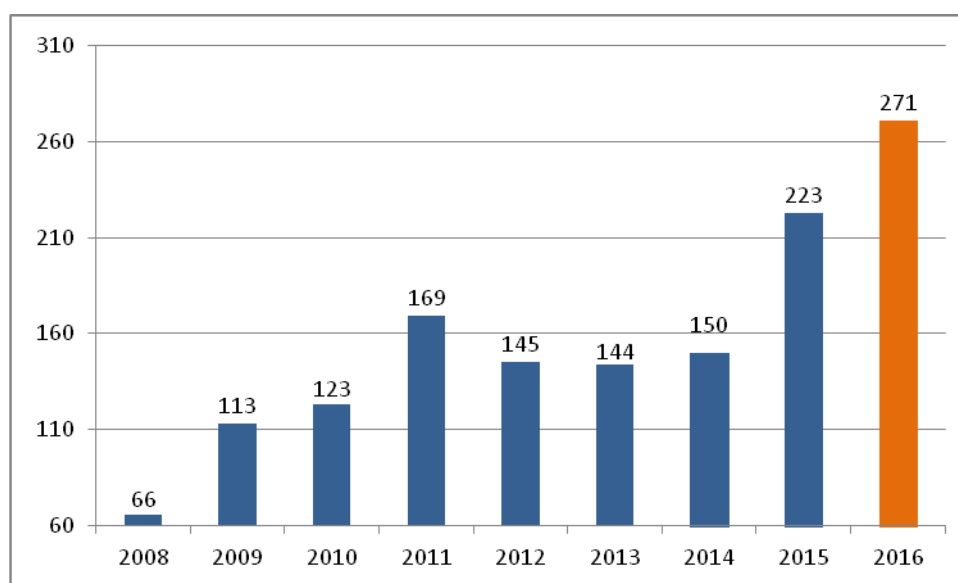
	structure is protected.
Mithna tax-Xarolla, Triq Sant' Andrija Żurrieq - PA 02219/16	Proposed reorganisation of the landscaping around the scheduled windmill and archaeological area, including the construction of visitor amenities. The Superintendence made a number of recommendations to improve the conservation aspect of the project as well as its visual impact.
Notarial Archives, 24, Triq San Kristofru c/w Triq San Pawl, Valletta - PA 05367/16	Proposed internal alterations to accommodate archives and offices and maintenance of the façade. A number of minor changes were recommended in view of the historical and architectural value of this property.
Site at Triq Ħal-Qormi c/w Triq It-Tigieġ, Qormi - PA 05491/16	Application for the excavation of the site and construction of a commercial complex, including road widening works. Following an archaeological evaluation of the site, the proposal was amended to ensure archaeological findings were protected and made partly accessible to the public. The remains of a poorly preserved rural structure on site is to be relocated and integrated into the new proposal.
St. Paul's Church, Pjazza San Pawl, Marsalforn, Żebbuġ, Gozo - PA 06047/16	To restore the original church and replace modern annexes with a new Parrochial Social Community Centre. The Superintendence is in discussion with the applicant to ensure that the design and the proposed new volumes will respect the visual integrity of the church.
St. Julians' Tower, Triq It-Torri, Sliema - PA 06434/16	Proposal for two complementary kiosks on either side of the tower, and other interventions on the battery of the same tower. The Superintendence objected to the proposal on account of the resulting physical encroachment and visual impact on the scheduled Knights' Period tower.
33, Triq Il-Kattidral, Sliema - PA 06610/16	To demolish existing town house and construct apartment block. The Superintendence objected to the demolition of this double-fronted nineteenth century building since the proposed development will impact negatively both on the existing streetscape and also on the architectural heritage.
Gozo General Hospital, Triq Ghajn Qatet, Victoria - PA 05493/16	Demolition of existing structures and construction of a new medical school. The Superintendence remarked that the core of the early twentieth century isolation hospital building still survives and warrants preservation and integration into any further development of the area.

3. Cultural Heritage Surveillance

Another important sector in which the Superintendence interacts with regards to land use and development is the surveillance and monitoring of ongoing construction works. The object of this type of surveillance is to ensure that construction works do not, either willfully or by accident, result in the damaging of historic structures or of archaeological remains. The scale of these interventions ranges from the surveillance of large infrastructural projects lasting many months, to small scale domestic interventions requiring only a few days of monitoring.

When managing monitoring cases the Superintendence prepares and issues terms of reference for surveillance and investigation works, directs the surveillance or archaeological investigation on construction sites, approves and supervises the engagement of freelance monitors, reviews and archives the results obtained, and reports back to MEPA as and when required. These cases often require also multiple field inspections and meetings with architects, contractors and developers.

The number of new monitoring cases handled by the Superintendence in 2016 continued to see a sharp increase compared to the previous year: 271 cases received in 2016, against the 223 cases of 2015 – as shown in the table below.



Surveillance and archaeological monitoring is conducted by the Superintendence in partnership with a number of freelance professionals as well as with private companies. Developers can employ a freelance archaeologist directly and no fees are paid for this service to the Superintendence. The archaeologist engaged will work according to the detailed Terms of Reference prepared by the Superintendence and will carry them out under the direction of the Superintendence. The archaeologist is also bound to report back any discoveries of potential cultural heritage value.

The reports of the archaeologists permits the Superintendence to intervene on the construction site to assess the discovery and decide what level of protection is required for the reported discoveries. A decision is also taken on the level of archaeological recording required on a case by case basis.

The Superintendence also publishes and periodically reviews a register of persons who can provide local developers with archaeological monitoring and related services. This register is accessible in the website of the Superintendence, together with a number of guidance documents defining the procedures and standards to be followed in monitoring cases.

In 2016 the number of registered freelance archaeological monitors registered with the Superintendence has decreased slightly: 16 registered full-time monitors in 2016, against the 23 of 2015.

The results of some of the major archaeological monitoring projects undertaken in 2016 are described in Section 6.

4. Museums and Sites

Guardianship Deeds

In 2016, six new Guardianship Deeds were concluded between the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage and Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, which is one of the foremost cultural heritage non-governmental organisations operating today in Malta.

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is the public entity legally entrusted with the management and regulation of this legal process of entrustment. Guardianship Deeds are management agreements that are specifically focused on ensuring the well-being and care of publicly owned cultural heritage property. Deeds are considered on the bases of stringent conservation and management requirements. These requirements include the submission by the potential Guardian of a conservation and management policy, which is to be attached to the main text of the Guardianship Deed. Both the deed and the attachments are first discussed by the Committee of Guarantee, and then submitted for ministerial and cabinet approval. Deeds are signed for defined periods, which may however be renewed.

Guardianship Deeds are of mutual benefit both to the Government, as the owner of the historical property, and also to the NGO or Local Council that holds the property in guardianship. However the ultimate beneficiaries of this partnership are: (i) the historical property which receives professional care, maintenance and management and (ii) the local and visiting communities which are awarded the opportunity to visit a historical building that would otherwise not be accessible.

No lease costs are imposed on the Guardian when taking over a property. This allows for all generated funds from that property, as well as donations, to be invested into the restoration, maintenance, rehabilitation and management needs of the cultural property in guardianship. Guardianship Deeds also promote the active participation of the community in cultural heritage through voluntary work.

The table below shows the status of the Guardianship Deeds which have been signed till the end of 2016.

	Name of Cultural Property	Locality	Name of Guardian	Year of Signature
1	Qalet Marku Tower	Naxxar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
2	Għallis Tower	Naxxar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
3	Red Tower (aka Sant' Agata Tower)	Mellieħa	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
4	Wignacourt Tower	San Pawl il-Baħar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
5	Mamo Tower	Marsaskala	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
6	Santa Maria Tower	Għajnsielem	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
7	Dwejra Tower	San Lawrenz	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
8	Santa Maria Battery	Għajnsielem	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
9	Msida Bastion Cemetery	Floriana	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
10	Lascaris War Rooms	Valletta	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2009
11	WWII shelter at 25, Britannia Square	Tarxien	Tarxien Local Council	2009
12	WWII shelter at Santa Ubaldesca Street	Paola	Fondazzjoni Wirt Paola	2010
13	Couvre Porte Barracks at Vittoriosa (10 rooms at lower level) and underlying WWII shelter	Vittoriosa	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2011
14	Our Lady of Victory Church	Valletta	Din l-Art Helwa	2011
15	Wied Iz-Żurrieq Tower	Qrendi	Din l-Art Helwa	2013
16	Fort Rinella	Kalkara	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
17	Madliena Tower and adjacent structures, room off Mediterranean Street and Bridge and Weir	Pembroke	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
18	Tower at Triq il-Wiesgħa	Xgħajra	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
19	Three World War II pill boxes: Reserve Post R15 (Naxxar), AB1 beach post (Mellieħa) and RAO beach post (Kalkara)	Naxxar Mellieħa Kalkara	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016

20	Notre Dame Gate	Vittoriosa	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
21	St. Thomas Tower	Marsaskala	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016

Collaboration with Heritage Malta and surveillance of major projects

The Superintendence has a close and constant rapport with Heritage Malta, particularly with respect to the various capital projects being undertaken on the archaeological and historical monuments in their keep. These projects involve large scale restoration and conservation initiatives, as well as the introduction of new infrastructural works to improve the visitors' experience on these sites.

The Superintendence has assisted Heritage Malta officers by providing technical back-up and guidance when required. The Superintendence carries out also regular surveillance of the works taking place on these sites to ensure that potentially negative impacts are removed or successfully mitigated.

1. **Fort St Angelo, Vittoriosa** – The restoration works within the precinct of Fort St. Angelo were completed and inaugurated in 2016. In the course of these works, involving both restoration and construction works, a number of architectural remains were identified. These belonged to different historical phases of the fort's use, including a stretch masonry probably forming part of the medieval phases of this fort, as well as features and barracks related to structural remains from the Knights and British Periods. The Superintendence worked closely with colleagues in Heritage Malta to ensure that these remains were protected and fully documented. The Superintendence also gave its recommendations to Heritage Malta regarding aspects of the restoration project as well as the structural works within this historical fortification.
2. **Ġgantija Temples, Xaghra** – The Superintendence together with Heritage Malta have carried out a small archaeological investigation in the open area in front of the Ġgantija Temples. The collapse of part of a modern retaining rubble wall had exposed earlier in the year a stretch of

archaeological deposits. The investigation established that the deposits behind the collapsed section of the rubble wall dated to the Neolithic Period and probably belonged to an extensive prehistoric terrace that once stood in front of the megalithic temples. Following documentation of the site, the remains were resealed and the area made safe for visitors.

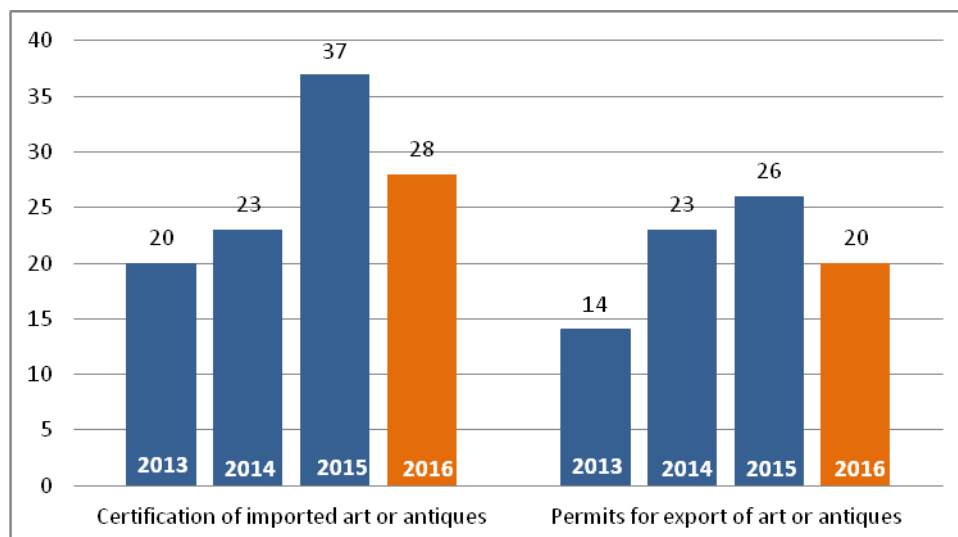
3. **Tas-Silġ Temples, Marsaxlokk** – The Superintendence provided Heritage Malta with its preliminary views and recommendations regarding its plans to develop a small Visitors Centre at the archaeological site of Tas-Silġ, in Marsaxlokk. The proposal involves the consolidation of the early twentieth century farm structures found close to the entrance of the site. It is planned to create a small orientation point and limited services for visitors within these consolidated remains. The project also includes the provision of easier access to the site to a larger public, by means of the physically non-intrusive access ramps, as well as the replacement of the existing, visually intrusive boundary wall. Some preliminary archaeological test pits were carried out in limited areas as part of this preparatory work for the project.
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5. Movement of Goods

Import and Export of Cultural Goods

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage regulates the import and export of cultural goods moving between Malta and EU Member States, as well as from or to non-EU countries. These cases are normally referred to the Superintendence by the Customs Department or by Malta Post.

On the request of Customs Department, the Superintendence also reviews the export or movement of “personal baggage or items”, to ensure that they do not include cultural heritage items being removed illegally out of the national territory.



Inspection of Exported Cultural Goods - The export of cultural heritage items from Malta requires permission from the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. In the course of 2016 the Superintendence issued permission for export of cultural heritage items in 20 cases. Out of these 20 cases, 16 cases were for the export of contemporary or decorative art that did not require inspection of the items. In the remaining 4 cases, permission was only granted after the items had been inspected.

Such inspections are carried out in terms of specific legislation and generated revenue amounting to € 11,591.91. This revenue is taken as a fee, equal to 5% of the value of the inspected item. The amount was a marked increase over the amount collected in 2015 (€ 1,422.14) for export inspections, but included an exceptional consignment shipped out of Malta on a super yacht.

Inspection of Imported Cultural Goods - The Superintendence is also called upon to inspect and certify cultural heritage items that are imported from outside the European Union. This process is initiated by the importer in order to comply with Customs procedures. In the course of 2016, the Superintendence inspected and certified imported cultural heritage items in 28 cases.

These inspections of imported items generated revenue of € 4,730.54. This was a marked decrease when compared to the € 25,901.54 collected for import inspections in 2015, but is closer to the € 2,564.54 collected in 2014 and the € 8,572.20 in 2013. It should be noted that the spike in revenue recorded in 2015 was exceptional and reflected the exceptional import of a number of high value items by a single individual in the course of that year.

6. Cultural Heritage Research

One of the key functions of the Superintendence is to regulate and promote cultural heritage and scientific research in Malta. This function is often carried out in collaboration with a range of Maltese and international partner organisations and colleagues.

FRAGSUS (Fragility and sustainability in island environments: cultural change and collapse in prehistory) – a five year long project funded by the European Research Council

The FRAGSUS project aims to answer a number of research questions through interdisciplinary approaches in environmental science, chronology, archaeology and biological anthropology. The project brings together an international team from five institutions: Queen's University Belfast (Lead Partner), the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the University of Cambridge, the University of Malta and Heritage Malta.

2016 was dedicated to the continuation of data collection exercises and data analysis started in the previous years of the project. Data collection was carried out both in the field and in museum collections. FRAGSUS activities undertaken in 2016 included:

- Participation to a number of project meetings and conferences, both locally and abroad, including a plenary project meeting held in January 2016 in Cambridge, follow up meetings in Malta and training sessions in both Cambridge and Belfast.
- Archaeological fieldwork at the prehistoric site of Skorba, Mġarr. This consisted in a limited stratigraphic investigation aimed at obtaining soil samples and other materials from a well stratified neolithic sequence.
- Geo-Sedimentary surveys in the valleys underlying Ġgantija Temples and Nuffara Hill, Xagħra. This study is aimed at reconstructing the landscape around the temples during prehistory;
- The Superintendence has also continued providing a major contribution to the FRAGSUS osteo-archaeology working group. Extensive work has been

devoted in particular to the analysis of the large collection of human skeletal remains recovered in the 1980s by the Xagħra Circle excavations, and which are now kept at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta. This work started in 2014 and involved osteology experts from both the Superintendence and from Macquarie University, Sydney. Many weeks of analysis have been dedicated in 2016 by this working group to isolate and record groups of human remains which are of particular interest to the scientific objectives of FRAGSUS. This work is ongoing and is planned to be completed inclusive of publication between 2017 and 2018. A first publication of the results of this working group was completed in 2016 while a local public outreach event was also organised in collaboration with the Malta Archaeological Society.

In addition to the above, training sessions were provided by FRAGSUS to the members of the osteology team regarding methods of assessment, analysis and handling of dentition, particularly in view of the importance of the dental record being recovered from Xagħra Circle. Furthermore scientific analysis of the remains from this site are being carried out, including isotope analysis and carbon dating testing.

Other Archaeological Interventions by the Superintendence in 2016

Throughout 2016 the Superintendence conducted a range of archaeological interventions and investigations mostly associated with the supervision and evaluation of land development work, described above. The following cases are some of the principal archaeological interventions carried out in 2016:

Triq Ġhajj Qajjet, Rabat

A total of sixteen rock-cut tombs and three small catacomb complexes were uncovered in Triq Ġhajj Qajjet during trenching works for the laying of service utilities. Various tombs had in the past been disturbed and partly damaged by the laying of previous services. An extensive archaeological investigation and documentation of these tombs was carried out by officers from the Superintendence. A preliminary assessment suggests that these tombs range in date from Phoenician to Roman times. The site forms part of a larger ancient funerary area occupying Ġhajj Qajjet, but also extending to the adjacent area of Ġhajj Klieb. The Superintendence ensured that the tombs

found at this site were all protected in situ. Discoveries at this site also included two underground water galleries probably of the British Period, one small set of cart-ruts and other agricultural features. These road works were started in 2015 and were completed in 2016.

Roundabout at Triq Għajn Qajjet, Rabat/ Triq il-Maltin Internati u Eżiljati, Mtarfa

A preliminary archaeological evaluation was undertaken in this extensive area as part of the planning assessment of a proposed construction of a Hydrology Centre within the Mtarfa/Rabat roundabout. The investigation uncovered a long stretch of ancient road surface, probably Roman, roughly aligned on the axis of the present Triq Għajn Qajjet. An interesting funerary deposit consisting of two Roman cinerary urns laid out inside a shallow surface depression was also discovered close to the remains of the ancient road. A rock-cut tomb consisting of a rectangular shaft and chamber was also found within the area of study. These features were preserved and measures were taken to integrate these remains within the Hydrology Centre as publicly accessible heritage attractions.

St. Paul's College, Rabat

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Superintendence over a section of the existing sports ground of St. Paul's College as part of an application for the construction of a sports pavillion. The evaluation exposed ten rock-cut funerary chambers and access shafts belonging to a number of tombs and catacombs. A sample of these features were selected for full investigation and documentation. The design of the pavillion was redrawn to ensure that none of the ancient features are damaged, and to retain access to them. A well attended open day was organised in collaboration with the school authorities which allowed the public to observe the results of the investigation and to discuss about them with the archaeologists on site.

Property at Triq Konti Ruggieru, Rabat

In a private house at Triq Konti Ruggieru workers broke into the ceiling of an underlying catacomb. An investigation of the feature was not possible due to the limited extent of the breach. However measures were taken to re-instate the roof and to ensure that the catacomb is preserved.

Two sites at Triq Qarawas, Żebbiegħ

Two archaeological evaluations were carried out in two separate plots at this location in the course of 2016. In both cases some stretches of cart ruts were uncovered together with traces of extensive historical quarrying. Measures were taken to ensure the cart ruts were preserved in situ.

Property at Triq Sant'Ursula, Valletta

During the rehabilitation of a Baroque house at this location, several features were uncovered at basement level. The discovered features related to the different historical construction phases of this building and included a cesspit connected to an extensive system of drainage channels, stratified deposits of domestic material within the cellar, a quarry, and a rock-cut stairway. The remains were investigated and recorded and the most historically important features were preserved in situ.

Safi Aviation Park, Safi

During construction works for new hangars, the accidental discovery of a silo pit was reported by the developer. Archaeological monitoring of the remaining works were undertaken resulting in the discovery of several other ancient features including two other silos, a rock-cut tomb, two bell-shaped wells and a large quarry pit. These findings are found close to other similar remains uncovered in these last years which were discovered in connection to the MedAvia project.

Salt Pans, Salina

A limited archaeological evaluation carried out along part of the Sukkursu Canal revealed parts of the canal's land-side retaining wall. The investigation was part of the works being undertaken in relation to the installation of a new bridge at the main entrance of the Salt Pans at Salina. The historical masonry stretch was protected under the new bridge construction.

Property at Triq Santa Luċija, Valletta

During the rehabilitation of a house in Triq Santa Luċija excavation works within the cellar uncovered the roof of a barrel-vaulted cistern. The intervention of the Superintendence ensured that the feature was preserved in situ and integrated as an accessible feature within the contemporary premises.

Site at Triq Bir ir-Riebu, Rabat

During monitoring of land development works at this location, a rock-cut tomb and a system of agricultural trenches were uncovered. The site was documented and the tomb was preserved in situ.

Triq tal-Pantar, Mosta

During monitored works two ancient rock-cut tombs of a possible Roman date were uncovered. These archaeological remains were fully investigated and documented. Both rock-cut tombs were preserved in situ.

Triq Francesco Ximenes, Salina

An archaeological evaluation of an unbuilt plot revealed a stretch of cart ruts as well as traces of ancient quarrying activity, together with some traces of structural remains. A full investigation and documentation of the site is being undertaken to complete its documentation and to establish which conservation measures are required at this site.

New Juvenile Correctional Facility at Imtaħleb, l/o Rabat

Archaeological monitoring at a construction site for a new correctional facility in Imtaħleb led to the discovery of a rock-cut tomb consisting of a rectangular shaft and chamber. The tomb was preserved in situ within the new building.

Property at Triq San Ġwann, Valletta

During the renovation of an eighteenth century Baroque house in Triq San Ġwann, excavation works within the courtyard uncovered the remains of an access to an adjacent underground cellar and a cistern. The access belonged to an older historical construction phase of the building. The features were documented and preserved in situ and will be made accessible to visitors.

Site at Triq Kan. G. Gatt Said, Rabat

An archaeological evaluation of a plot at this location uncovered a large concentration of 20 ancient tomb shafts cut into the bedrock surface. A sample of three tomb shafts were selected for further investigation. Various well preserved Roman inhumations were excavated and documented within the selected tombs. The entire site is being preserved and protected in situ.

Property at Triq Hal Bajada, Rabat

Archaeological documentation was carried out at this site following the identification of two catacombs and a rock-cut tomb. The funerary features are dated from the Late Roman Period to Early Christian period. Both the funerary structures are being preserved in situ.

Site at Triq taç-Ġaghki, Rabat

During an archaeological investigation at this site, a number of heavily damaged traces of ancient catacombs and tomb were identified. The tombs had been almost entirely removed by later historical quarrying. The site was fully excavated and documented. No material culture was identified. The more significant surviving archaeological features are preserved in situ.

Property at Triq Melita c/w Triq L-Ifran, Valletta

A series of historical foundation walls and rock-cut pits were identified and recorded. These date to an earlier construction phase of this Valletta property.

The remains and the materials within them were preserved in situ and covered over.

Property at St Helen's Flats, Triq Melita, Valletta

A rock-cut pit containing ceramic sherds from the Knights and British Periods was discovered during development works at this property. The pit and its surroundings were archaeologically excavated and documented.

Site at Triq John Ayde, Naxxar

A small stretch of cart ruts was uncovered during an archaeological investigation of the site. These cart ruts were preserved in situ.

Property at Triq San Pawl, Valletta

Works at basement level within a property at Triq San Pawl uncovered various features possibly forming part of the earliest construction phase of this building. The identified remains stand as evidence of the extensive urban regeneration and reworking of buildings which took place in the subsequent centuries. These structural and rock-cut features were excavated and documented in full. Many of these historical remains were preserved and have been integrated in the contemporary development as visible features.

Site at Triq San Frangisk corner with Triq San Gabriel, Balzan

Excavation works uncovered the remains of disused early modern cisterns. The site was documented and the cisterns were preserved.

Site at Tal-Istabal, Triq Hal Qormi, Qormi

A pre-application archaeological evaluation of the site revealed a series of multi period features and remains. Remains uncovered on site included partially truncated prehistoric cart ruts and the remains of a stretch of ancient masonry. A small Late Antique tomb was also discovered, partially breached and missing any ancient stratigraphic fill, but otherwise in good condition. In the early modern period, possibly around the eighteenth century, the site was transformed into an agricultural estate. Various features were identified on this site belonging to this period, including extensive traces of quarrying, cisterns with channels, as well as the foundations of a probable mill house. The design of the proposed development was changed to allow the preservation in situ of all the archaeological features as well as the remains of the mill house. The Late Antique tomb and the mill house remains will be integrated into the new designs as publicly accessible heritage features.

Two sites at Triq It- Tigrija, Marsa

Two separate investigations in adjacent properties revealed the remains of probable ancient masonry. The structures are built with ashlar blocks, and

may be possibly linked to the quay storage areas identified in this area of Marsa in the 1950s. No ancient stratigraphy survived in association with these structural remains. In both cases, the masonry remains have been documented and will be preserved in situ.

Site at Tal-Gholjiet, Wied ta' Garnaw, Gudja

Works in an agricultural property at Wied Garnaw identified a cluster of five silos probably dating to the Bronze Age. All five silos were filled with agricultural soil and no archaeological fills were noted within these features. The site has been documented, protected and backfilled for future investigations.

St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Valletta

A limited investigation was carried out within the basement of the Pro-Cathedral in relation to the proposed relaying of paving and introduction of new services. The investigation revealed the presence of foundation walls belonging to an older building under the existing flooring, probably the remains of the Auberge d'Alemagne. The auberge was in fact demolished in the early nineteenth century to make way for the existing Anglican Pro-Cathedral. Discussions are underway on the best way of protecting these remains.

7. Cultural Heritage Policy

One of the core functions of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is to provide policy guidance and technical assistance to Government entities on matters relating to cultural heritage matters. The main areas in which the Superintendence is engaged regarding policy and technical guidance are the following:

Provide Policy and Technical Advice to the Minister for Culture

- Participate ex officio in the Committee of Guarantee;
- Provide guidance to the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government and to the office of the Attorney General regarding the process of revision and reform of the Cultural Heritage Act 2002;
- Provide guidance to the Minister of Justice, Culture and Local Government regarding the signing of international conventions related to cultural heritage;
- Provide guidance to the Minister of Justice, Culture and Local Government and to the Committee of Guarantee regarding the signing of new Guardianship Deeds;
- Assist the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government with the organisation of the annual National Forum for Cultural Heritage. At the Forum for 2016, the Superintendent made a presentation of the work undertaken by the Superintendence in 2015;
- Represent the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government during meetings at the European Commission (Brussels) regarding issues relating to cultural heritage matters, including matters involving the movement of cultural goods within the European Union;
- Represent the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government at Council of Europe meetings (Strasbourg) relating to the preparation, signature and implementation of the various Council conventions relating to cultural heritage assets.

Provide Technical and Policy Advice to other Ministries and Public Authorities

- Provide assistance to and collaborate closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Office to the Permanent Delegation of Malta to UNESCO relating to the Maltese properties listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Monuments – the City of Valletta, the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum and the Megalithic Temples;
- Attend meetings with UNESCO officials and UNESCO appointed experts on behalf of Government and in support of the Permanent Delegation of Malta to UNESCO;
- Collaborate with and provide technical input when required to the Commissioner of Police on matters relating to the investigation and prosecution of cultural heritage crimes;
- Collaborate with and provide technical input to the Executive Council within the Planning Authority and to the Planning Directorate relating to a wide range of issues, including specific planning applications having bearing on cultural heritage assets, development of planning policy and procedure, enforcement and scheduling of properties of cultural heritage value;
- Collaborate with and provide technical input to the Customs authorities regarding issues relating to the export and import of cultural goods into and out of the Maltese national territory, including movement of goods to other EU member states;
- Participate in the National Archives Board.