

DATA RULES

Case Study on an issue resolved by the Connemara Programme

2016

Key Points

- Data rules were introduced at database, data entry and display levels.
- These rules are designed to ensure consistency across the data set and maintain data integrity.
- Many rules are in place to guarantee core data elements are allocated to each record.
- Rules relating to SIR visibility to end users are designed to ensure no SIR, Category or sub category displayed without it having required data in them.
- Further rules to increase data discipline and reduce data entry load are being examined.

The Issue

Various data rules had to be introduced to ensure data integrity and consistency of field use across the data base. Rules were also introduced to ensure the front end (myconnemara.com) never presented a blank record.

The Approach

A set of core data rules were used to establish and maintain each record as unique. Each record must be allocated to a Brand (eg Connemara), have a unique name and a unique slug (used in mini site URLs). Other core rules include:

- 1) A SIR must be tagged as visible to appear to the end user
- 2) A SIR must have at least one graphic if it is to appear to the end user
- 3) A SIR must be allocated to at least one Place (Town / Community)
- 4) Categories, Sub categories and SIRs can be tagged as invisible
- 5) Only Categories, Sub categories and SIRs tagged as visible appear to the end user and on interactive maps.

The Result

The data rules introduced in the 2016 version ensure that only records with data and specific required fields are available for presentation to end users on myconnemara.com and also on the interactive maps that the Programme provides for use by business and community web sites.

The rules are designed to ensure that the end user is never presented with records that are blank or lacking a graphic or photo.

The ability to tag entire categories and subcategories as visible / invisible means that SIRs can be made visible or invisible in bulk. This is useful in bulk addition or editing of SIRs and also in the introduction of new Categories of data (eg Weather) because the category can be made visible only when the data set is created, checked and tested.

Many other more technical data rules are programmed for implementation at the data base level such as checks on correct field formats etc.