

KYLEMORE ABBEY ECONOMIC & SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT 2024

September 2025



KYLEMORE
ABBNEY®

A story so timeless,
it's still being written.



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ABOUT KYLEMORE ABBEY

Kylemore Abbey is a non-profit organization and social enterprise, rooted in Connemara, Co. Galway and deeply committed to its region.

Kylemore Abbey is also a living Benedictine monastery and a vibrant heritage attraction. It draws on age-old monastic values making it a unique place of heritage and conservation; hospitality; education and learning; ecological sustainability; and monastic spirituality.

Informed by these values, The Kylemore Trust is committed to being a force for social good - bringing social, cultural and economic benefits to one of Ireland's most beautiful and remote areas. All funds generated from income and philanthropy are used to preserve and share this special place and to enhance the lives of those who live, work, learn, pray and visit at Kylemore Abbey.

This Economic and Social Impact Study 2024 highlights Kylemore Abbey's role in improving life in this special part of Ireland.

Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd attracts thousands of visitors to experience the unique heritage and beauty of Kylemore's estate and generates vital, year-round employment for those who live here. The Kylemore Trust commissioned Fitzpatrick Associates to analyse Kylemore's economic impact - and how this benefits the regional economy of Galway and Mayo.

True to its values, and the modern imperative of social responsibility and sustainability, Kylemore Abbey delivers real social impact by offering sustainable employment, quality of life, care for the environment by sharing the unique tranquillity, beauty and heritage of this special place with the world. This Report sets out some examples of Kylemore's social impact.

Mother Karol O'Connell OSB,
Abbess of the Benedictine Community
and Chair, The Kylemore Trust

Conor Coyne,
CEO, Kylemore Abbey

Liz McConnell,
Executive Director, The Kylemore Trust

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ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

Fitzpatrick Associates Economic Impact Report (2024) report finds that the combined expenditure impact of Kylemore Abbey in the Galway-Mayo area in 2024, including direct current expenditure of €6.1 mn, capital expenditure of €7.2 mn and an indicative wider tourist expenditure of €78.2 mn, comes to €91.5 mn.

Also, when the jobs supported by tourist expenditure are added to the direct jobs created by Kylemore Abbey and any jobs supported through capital expenditure, the total employment supported by the Abbey in a single year comes to more than 1,850 jobs, in FTE terms.

This 2024 report by Fitzpatrick Associates Economic Consultants on behalf of The Kylemore Trust, is also an update to a previous study carried out in 2019 (based on data for 2018). At that time Kylemore Abbey was estimated to support 1,550 jobs and was worth €59.0 million to the region in direct and indirect expenditure. This represents significant growth in the 6-year period - 19.3% jobs growth and a 55.1% increase in related expenditure.

Scan the QR code to view the full Report & Methodology



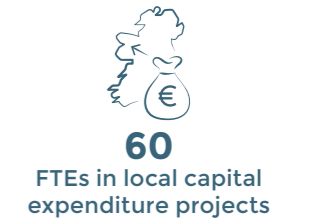
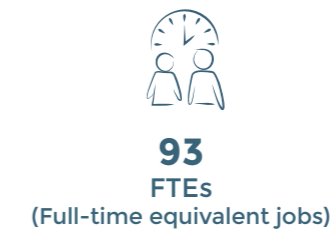
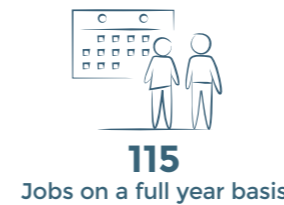
Economic, Employment & Tourism Impacts in 2024

1,850 Jobs
(in FTE terms) supported by Kylemore Abbey in a single year

€91.5m*
combined expenditure impact of Kylemore Abbey in Galway-Mayo area in 2024

**Includes direct current expenditure of €6.1m, capital expenditure of €7.2m and an indicative wider tourist expenditure of €78.2m*

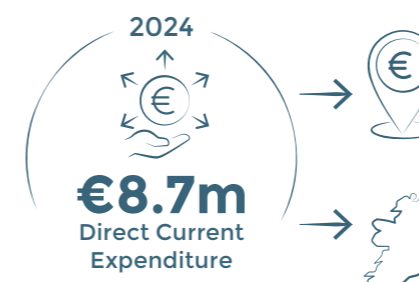
Impact on Employment:



Impact on Tourism:

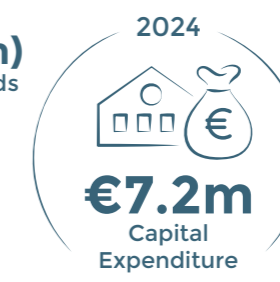


Economic Impact:



70% (€6.1m)
Local labour, goods and services

24%
Elsewhere in Ireland



97% (€7m)
Local labour, goods and services

100%
from within Ireland

Education & Learning

Education is at the heart of Kylemore. Since they were established in Ypres, Belgium in 1665, the Benedictine Nuns have made education, especially for girls and women (SDG Goal 4), a priority. Although no longer a school, Kylemore is a place where learning is advanced in various ways.

Kylemore Abbey is one of Ireland's most iconic heritage attractions. Founded on the principles of Benedictine hospitality, we seek to ensure each visitor enjoys a memorable and authentic experience of the best of the West of Ireland; its beauty, its people, its craft, its food, its ecology.

Hospitality

Sharing a love of history, heritage and place, we hosted:



1,428
daily history talks for visitors and guests



111
Private tours for visiting groups and schools



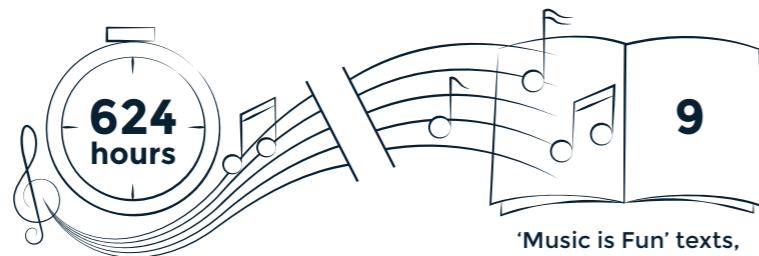
>300
delegates at on-site conferences in areas as diverse as Heritage Skills, Architecture and Landscape, Monastic History, Icon Writing



Kylemore is proud to host one of University of Notre Dame's 11 global study locations, welcoming over

5,000
students & academics to UND Kylemore Abbey Global centre programmes since 2016

For local children growing up in Connemara, access to music education can be difficult. In 2024, Mother Karol provided:



of music classes for local students

'Music is Fun' texts, workbooks and teaching aids written and illustrated to help teachers and students to love and learn music

Since 2021, we have worked with University of Galway on a Biodiversity Stewardship Programme



98
students used Kylemore as a living lab



36
bird species identified and tracked



45
actions targeted on our Biodiversity Action Plan

Our people are what make Kylemore great!



We provided



of staff development and on-site training to ensure our staff have access to new skills, knowledge and wellness opportunities, making Kylemore "a great place to work"



In 2024, we welcomed 572,000 visitors from 82 countries who enjoyed:



35,197
delicious homemade scones



22,536
slices of apple pie



110,392
cups of tea and coffee



144,000
chocolate sheep handmade in Sr. Genevieve's Chocolate Studio

Kylemore is rooted in its locality and deeply engaged with our local community:



53
Local community groups, events and charities were supported by the Kylemore Estate



2,539
free admission given to members of the local community

We love to bring Kylemore to the world and have done this through:



42
Familiarisation trips for international tour operators

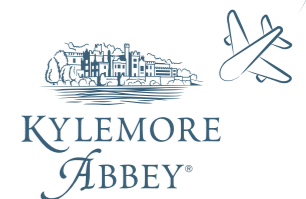


103.5m
viewers globally have seen Kylemore on their screens in the past 5 years through major broadcasts like Postcards from Ireland (PBS), Nevin Maguire's Christmas at Kylemore Abbey, Nationwide and many more

Through Kylemore Abbey School (1923-2010)



we have a network of **1,200** past pupils across the world from Maam to Mexico, Clifden to California



We love to engage with our guests and have done so with a reach of over

2.8m across our **5** social channels receiving **1,402** 5-star reviews in 2024

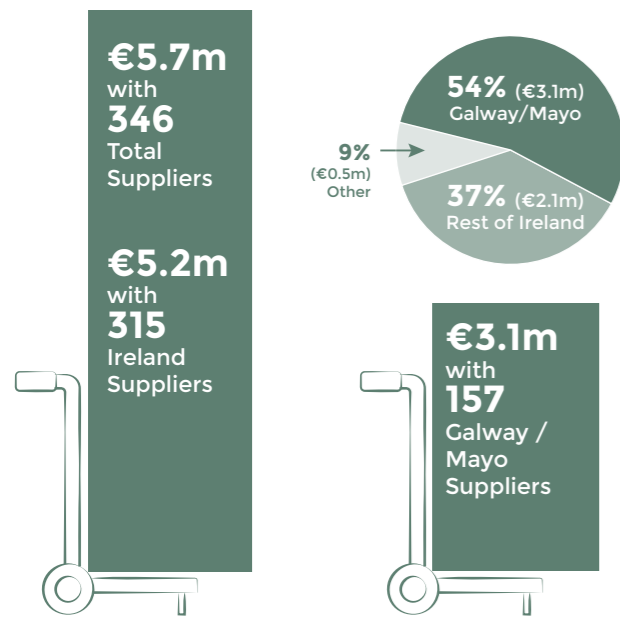


Sustainability

At Kylemore Abbey we aim to ensure a positive relationship between development, commerce, communities and the environment.

As a place that welcomes over **500,000 visitors** each year, we seek to moderate the impact of our 'footprint' on the environment and to ensure ecological, social and economic balance at Kylemore.

Suppliers and Spending



20 'Peaceful' foals have been born on the Kylemore Estate since 2020 with

624 Connemara pony talks each year hosted at the pony paddock



in 2024, we removed

73,956 plastic bottles

with **0** single use plastic bottles sold since then

Between 2022 and 2024, Kylemore addressed invasive species by:



Removing **33,500** square meters of Rhododendron Ponticum



In 2024, we planted 216 apple trees of 12 different varieties which has yielded 682 apples and we planted **1035** native trees



Planting **42,200** bulbs and seedlings across the Estate

Introducing **500,000** native Irish bees to the Estate in 10 hives



that produced **2,640** jars of natural, organic honey in 2024 with **0** food miles

Heritage

Kylemore is a place of 'Living Heritage'. We are committed to preserving and safeguarding the natural, built and lived heritage of the Estate and sharing this with all who visit.



98 Meters of Victorian guttering and downpipe restored on the Gothic Church



1,620 Hours of craftsmanship to restore the former Ballroom, now Fordham Hall



66 trail signs throughout the Estate that guide visitors through its flora, fauna, folklore and history

Recognising our peripheral location, we delight in providing a platform for cultural events and activities, adding to the quality of life in Connemara.



494 school children from local schools visited and planted **121** trees



Since September 2024 **800 People** attended concerts and exhibitions in the newly renovated Fordham Hall



26 choral performances in 2024 in the Monastic Church

The presence of the vibrant Benedictine Community and their monastic life of prayer and work is a unique part of Kylemore Abbey's story and heritage.

Spirituality



In 2024, Kylemore's Benedictine Community comprised **15 Benedictine nuns** and **1 Full-time chaplain** on-site



27,505 People joined them from **87 countries** for Mass and Vespers via webcam in their Monastic Church



Kylemore's new Monastery, Education and Retreat Centre opened in August 2024 and welcomed **217 Monastic Guests** in 4 months



The nuns pray **5 times** a day welcoming more than **7,000 in-person visitors** to their Chapel for Mass and Vespers each day

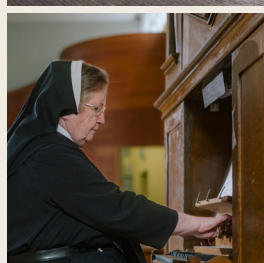
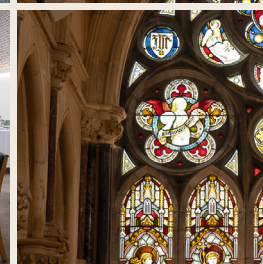
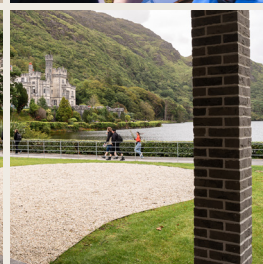
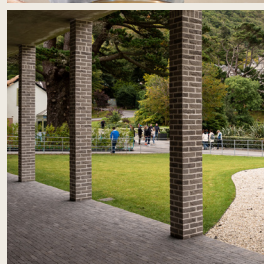
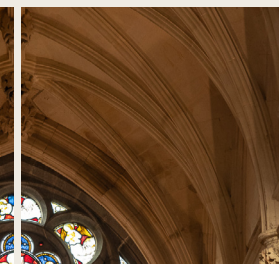
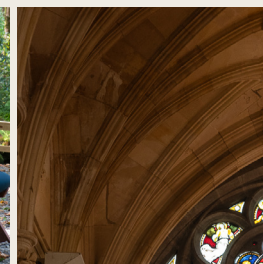


Many visitors join the Benedictine nuns in prayer with over **66,360** candles lit at shrines and in prayer across the Estate



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