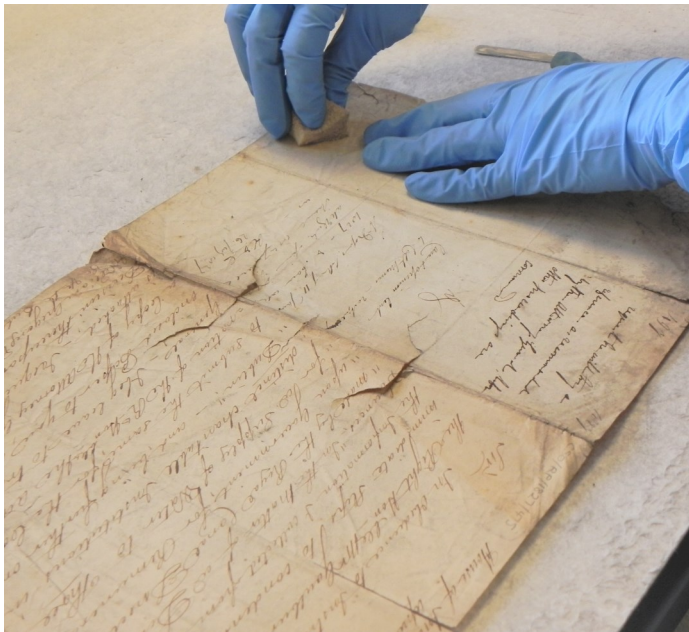


# National Archives of Ireland



## How we conserve the Chief Secretary's Office, Registered Papers



### Conservation

Damage to the letters and papers in the series has happened because of the natural aging process, poor historic storage and handling by researchers over the years. The letters were originally folded, weakening the paper fibres along the folds causing the paper to split or be easily torn.

Conservation treatment begins with cleaning of every document with different types of conservation erasers. This has the positive effect of removing the dust and surface dirt, which makes it easier to see the written text.

If letters are badly creased or folded they are flattened. Tears and areas of damage are repaired with wheat starch paste and a very thin Japanese tissue.

Additional treatments are needed for the large maps and architectural plans and for mouldy damaged papers or documents with seals.

### Conservation interns

Funding from the Francis J. Crowley Bequest provided support for recent graduates in paper conservation to have the opportunity to work on this collection from 2008-2016. These conservation internships helped the emerging conservators to develop their skills, whilst working in a national cultural institution.

Since the project began, 54,438 individual documents have been conserved.



### Research

Each conservation intern working on the CSO Registered Papers developed a research project to assist in creating a greater knowledge and understanding of this collection.

- Wax and Wafer Seals in the CSO/RP 1821.
- Irish Watermarks Identified in 1818-21.
- Sewn documents in the Chief Secretary's Office Registered papers.
- The Inks in the Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers.
- A study of alkali treatments of handbills in the Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers.
- Identification & Conservation of 19th Century Postmarks.