



**An Coimisinéir Teanga welcomes enactment of new Official Languages Bill but also stresses the importance of the full implementation of the Act.**

An Coimisinéir Teanga has said there has been significant progress as regards language rights as a result of the enactment of a new Official Languages Act. Rónán Ó Domhnaill also said, however, that what's most important now is that the Act is implemented as intended.

*“The enactment of this legislation certainly signifies progress as regards language rights. The State must act in a practical and proactive way to give effect to the clear objective in the Act that by 2030 20% of new recruits to the public sector and to the Civil Service be proficient in Irish. It's clear that the work of the Advisory Committee, to be established under the Act, and the National Plan for the Provision of State Services through Irish, which will have a statutory basis, will be critical in ensuring an increase of Irish speakers in the public service.”*

Some of the provisions in the new legislation include:

- An objective that by 2030 20% of new recruits to the public sector and the Civil Service be proficient in Irish.
- Confirmation that a deadline will be set whereby all State services in Gaeltacht regions will be available through Irish.
- A new monitoring function for An Coimisinéir Teanga.
- A provision to end the language scheme system and replace it with a system of language standards.
- A provision to ensure that communications with a public body on social media are answered in the same language.
- A provision requiring public bodies to ensure that marketing material distributed to a class of the public be in Irish.
- A provision requiring public bodies to ensure that 20% of their annual advertising is in Irish.
- A provision to ensure application forms are available in Irish.
- A provision to ensure that the logos of public bodies are in Irish or in Irish and English.

Rónán Ó Domhnaill said that his Office will be advising the public regarding the strengthening of language rights as a result of the new legislation. His Office will also advise public bodies regarding their new statutory obligations. The provisions will take effect over time and this work must begin without delay, An Coimisinéir Teanga said.

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