

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

Annual Report

2025





Tuarascáil Bhliantúil **Annual Report**

Don Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta:

De réir alt 30 d'Acht na
dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003,
arna leasú, cuireann an
Coimisinéir Teanga an Tuarascáil
seo don bhliain 2025 i láthair.

Séamas Ó Concheanainn
An Coimisinéir Teanga
Aibreán 2026

To the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht:

In accordance with section 30 of
the Official Languages Act 2003,
as amended, this Report for 2025
is presented by An Coimisinéir
Teanga.

Séamas Ó Concheanainn
An Coimisinéir Teanga
April 2026

RÁITEAS MISIN

"Cearta teanga á gcosaint"

Seirbhís neamhspleách ar ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil i gcomhlíonadh ár ndualgas reachtúil lena chinntiú go ndéanann an státchóras beart de réir a bhriathair maidir le cearta teanga.

Cothrom na Féinne a chinntiú do chách trí ghearáin faoi na deacrachtaí a bhaineann le teacht ar sheirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge a láimhseáil ar bhealach atá éifeachtach, gairmiúil agus neamhchlaon.

Eolas soiléir, cruinn a chur ar fáil:

- don phobal maidir le cearta teanga, agus
- do chomhlachtaí poiblí maidir le dualgais teanga.

MISSION STATEMENT

"Protecting language rights"

To provide an independent quality service whilst fulfilling our statutory obligations to ensure state compliance in relation to language rights.

To ensure fairness for all by dealing in an efficient, professional and impartial manner with complaints regarding difficulties in accessing public services through the medium of Irish.

To provide clear and accurate information:

- to the public in relation to language rights, and
- to public bodies in relation to language obligations.

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BROLLACH

Is é aidhm Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe, líon agus caighdeán na seirbhísí poiblí a chuireann eagraíochtaí stáit ar fáil a mhéadú agus a fheabhsú agus cearta teanga phobal labhartha na Gaeilge a threisiú dá réir. Leasaíodh bun-Acht 2003 in 2021 ar mhaithe le dul i ngleic le bearnaí suntasacha ar thug m’Oifig suntas dóibh agus a d’aithin geallsealbhóirí éagsúla agus rialtais éagsúla sa soláthar reatha seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge.

Tá ceithre bliana caite ó achtaíodh Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021. Is follasach dea-thionchar na reachtaíochta teanga nua ar úsáid na Gaeilge sa saol poiblí in Éirinn. Is ábhar dóchais é an borradh atá ar fheiceálacht agus úsáid na Gaeilge ar na meáin éagsúla de thoradh na forála maidir le fógraíocht i nGaeilge a chuimsítear san Acht leasaithe. Léirigh tuarascáil a d’fhoilsigh m’Oifig ag Oireachtas na Samhna 2025 i mBéal Feirste gur caitheadh €19m san iomlán ar fhógraíocht i nGaeilge in 2024. Caitheadh €5.2m den €19m thuasluaite go heisiach ar na meáin Ghaeilge, rud atá ag cruthú sruthanna nua ioncaim d’earnáil na meán Gaeilge. In imeacht achar gearr ama, tá an fhoráil ar fhógraíocht tar éis cur go mór le hinfheictheacht na Gaeilge ar fud na meán éagsúil, agus tá ról ríthábhachtach aige maidir le bisiúlacht agus úsáid laethúil na teanga a chothú.

Is forbairtí dearfacha iad infheictheacht agus úsáid mhéadaithe na Gaeilge sa saol poiblí, arna spreagadh don reachtaíocht nua teanga. Le bliain anuas, áfach, is ábhar imní é patrún atá ag teacht chun cinn maidir le spriocdhátaí reachtúla a chailleadh i ndáil le príomhghnéithe d’Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2021 a chur i bhfeidhm. Liostaítear i dTábla 2 ar leathanach 15 den Tuarascáil Bhliantúil seo na forálacha reachtúla agus na spriocdhátaí ábhartha. Is é an dúshlán is suntasaí an mhoill atá ar chóras nua caighdeán teanga a thabhairt i bhfeidhm, córas a shaineoidh na seirbhísí breise nach mór do chomhlachtaí poiblí a sholáthar i nGaeilge agus na leibhéil inniúlachta i nGaeilge is gá a bheith ag an bhfoireann a bheidh ag seachadadh na seirbhíse sin. Rinneadh aisghairm ar chóras na scéimeanna teanga i mí na Nollag 2024, sula raibh na caighdeáin nua réidh lena gcur chun feidhme, rud a ghéaraigh an dúshlán seo.

Is é aidhm an chórais nua caighdeán teanga a chinntiú go soláthraítear seirbhísí poiblí riachtanacha i nGaeilge, lena n-áirítear, mar shampla, seirbhísí bunúsacha tacaíochta do chustaiméirí agus seirbhísí ar líne, seirbhísí atá ríthábhachtach chun feabhas a chur ar sholáthar na hearnála poiblí i nGaeilge. Sin gan trácht ar an riachtanas go mbeadh dóthain foirne atá inniúil i nGaeilge ag obair sa tseirbhís phoiblí chun seirbhísí oideachais, rialtais aitiúil, sláinte agus slándála, mar shampla, a sholáthar i rogha teanga Phobal na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge.

FOREWORD

The aim of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, is to increase and improve the availability and quality of public services provided by state bodies in Irish and to strengthen the language rights of the Irish-speaking community accordingly. The principal 2003 Act was amended in 2021 to address significant gaps in the provision of public services in Irish, as identified by key stakeholders, including the Irish language community, this Office, and various governments.

Four years after the enactment of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, the positive impact of the amended legislation on the use of Irish in public life is evident. The enhanced visibility and use of Irish in media, attributable to the Act's section 10A advertising provision, reinforces language rights for the Irish-speaking community. A report launched by my Office at Oireachtas na Samhna 2025 in Belfast revealed that €19 million was spent on Irish-language advertising in 2024. Of this, €5.2 million was dedicated solely to Irish-language media, generating new revenue for the sector. In a relatively short period, this provision has significantly boosted the visibility of Irish across various media, playing a vital role in promoting the language's vibrancy and everyday use.

The increased visibility and use of the Irish language in public life, driven by new language legislation, are positive developments. However, over the past year, there has been a concerning pattern of missed statutory deadlines for implementing key elements of the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021. Table 2 on page 15 of this Annual Report lists the relevant statutory provisions and deadlines. The most significant issue is the delay in introducing a new language standards system, which will define the additional services public bodies must provide in Irish and the required proficiency levels for staff. This challenge was compounded by the revocation of the outdated language schemes system in December 2024, before the new standards were ready for implementation.

The new language standards system sets out to ensure that essential public services are delivered in Irish, including, for example, basic customer support and online services, and is critical to improving Irish-language public-sector provision. Notwithstanding the need for sufficient Irish-speaking staff to work in the public service, in education, local government, health, and policing, for example, providing services in the language of their choice of the Gaeltacht and Irish-speaking community nationally.

Tá moill ar chóras na gcaighdeán teanga a chur i bhfeidhm ag moilliú dul chun cinn ar neartú chearta teanga phobal na Gaeilge. Tá comhlachtaí poiblí ag fanacht le treoir trí chóras na gcaighdeán teanga maidir leis na seirbhísí poiblí breise nach mór dóibh a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge. Cruthaíonn an mhoill ar fhoilsiú caighdeáin teanga éiginnteacht, rud a chuireann bac ar phleanáil earcaíochta freisin, mar go sonraítear in Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021 go gcaithfidh 20% d'earcaigh san earnáil phoiblí a bheith líofa sa Ghaeilge. Gan teoracha soiléire, áfach, maidir leis na seirbhísí poiblí nua a chaithfidh comhlachtaí poiblí a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge, ní féidir leo pleanáil éifeachtach a dhéanamh chun foireann atá inniúil i nGaeilge a earcú d'fhonn na seirbhísí sin a chur ar fáil. Baineann gearán amháin as gach trí cinn, ar an meán, a fhaigheann m'Oifig gach bliain le seirbhísí a tháinig faoi chóras neamhéifeachtúil na scéimeanna teanga atá imithe in éag anois. In éagmais chóras nua na gcaighdeán teanga a thabhairt i bhfeidhm, tá marbhántacht á cruthú a d'fhéadfadh creimeadh a dhéanamh ar an muinín atá ag a bpobal i dtiomantas an Stáit d'fheabhas a chur ar sheirbhísí poiblí i gcomhréir le cearta reachtúla teanga. Chomh maith leis na caighdeáin teanga chriticiúla gan a bheith i bhfeidhm go fóill, tá roinnt treoirlínte reachtúla tábhachtacha a thacaíonn le cearta teanga fós gan feidhmiú freisin. Áirítear orthu sin an ceanglas a bheith ar chomhlachtaí poiblí a chinntiú gur féidir lena gcórais TFC ainmneacha agus seoltaí daoine a phróiseáil agus a thaifeadadh go cruinn i nGaeilge. Níor foilsíodh na treoirlínte reachtúla d'fhoirmeacha oifigiúla faoin spriocdháta a leagadh síos in Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021 ach an oiread go fóill.

Is buncheart pobal na Gaeilge é go go gcuirfí forálacha reachtúla i bhfeidhm a chosnaíonn a gcearta teanga agus a chuireann chun cinn iad de réir spriocdhátaí a shonraítear i reachtaíocht náisiúnta. Is ar an Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta atá an fhreagracht anois as Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021 a chur i bhfeidhm, tar éis aistriú dualgais ó Rannán na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta ón Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán i ndiaidh Olltoghchán 2024 agus tar éis bhunú an Rialtais nua go luath in 2025.

Tá ról gníomhach ag m'Oifig freisin i gcur chun cinn cearta teanga go hidirnáisiúnta, agus faoi láthair tá mé i mo Chathaoirleach ar Chumann Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga. Tionólfar Comhdháil Idirnáisiúnta an Chumainn i nGaillimh i mí Mheán Fómhair 2026, agus cuirfear fáilte roimh choimisinéirí teanga agus ghníomhaithe cearta teanga ó gach cearn den domhan. Beidh an Chomhdháil ar siúl i gcomhthráth le hUachtaránacht na hÉireann ar an Aontas Eorpach, agus tá comhoibriú leanúnach ar siúl ina leith sin.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis an Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta reatha, chomh maith le bainistíocht na Roinne, as a dtacaíocht chun maoiniú agus soláthar foirne m'Oifige a mhéadú.

I bhfianaise na ndúshlán agus na ndeiseanna a leagtar amach thuas, bliain rithabhachtach a bheidh in 2026 chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíonfaidh an Stát a ghealltanais reachtúla d'fhonn feabhas a chur ar sheirbhísí poiblí inár dteanga náisiúnta agus inár gcéad teanga oifigiúil.

Séamas Ó Concheanainn
An Coimisinéir Teanga

Delays in implementing the language standards system are making it harder to strengthen the language rights of the Irish-speaking community. Public bodies are awaiting guidance through the language standards system regarding the additional public services they will be required to provide in Irish. The delay in publishing language standards creates uncertainty, which also hampers recruitment planning, as the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021 stipulates that 20% of new public-sector recruits must be proficient in Irish. However, without clear instructions on which public services must be delivered in Irish, public bodies cannot effectively plan to recruit staff with proficiency in Irish to provide those services. On average, one in three complaints received by my Office each year comes under the now-revoked inefficient language schemes system. The absence of the new language standards system is creating a stasis that could significantly erode confidence in the State's commitment to improving public services in Irish in line with statutory language rights. In addition to the key language standards not yet implemented, several important statutory guidelines that support language rights remain outstanding. These include the requirement for public bodies to ensure their ICT systems can accurately process and record individuals' names and addresses in Irish. The statutory guidelines for official forms have also not been published within the deadline set in the Official Languages Act (Amendment), 2021.

It is a fundamental right of the Irish language community that statutory provisions protecting and promoting its language rights be implemented in accordance with deadlines specified in national legislation. Responsibility for implementing the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021 now rests with the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, following the transfer of duties for the Irish Language and Gaeltacht from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to the Department for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht following the formation of the new Government in early 2025.

My Office is also actively involved in promoting language rights internationally, and I currently serve as Chair of the International Association of Language Commissioners. The Association's International Conference will be held in Galway in September 2026, welcoming language commissioners and language rights activists from around the world. The Conference coincides with Ireland's Presidency of the European Union, and ongoing collaboration is taking place in that regard.

I wish to thank the current Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, along with Department management, for their support in increasing funding and staffing for my Office.

In view of the challenges and opportunities outlined above, 2026 will be a pivotal year in ensuring that the State honours its statutory commitments to improve public services in our national and first official language.

Séamas Ó Concheanainn
An Coimisinéir Teanga

Achoimre ar an mbliain 2025

FOLÚS REATHA NA GCEART TEANGA

Mar thoradh ar neamhfheidhmiú chóras reachtúil na gcaighdeán teanga go dtí seo, tá bearnaí suntasacha i seirbhísí poiblí bunúsacha i nGaeilge sna réimsí seo a leanas ar fud na Seirbhíse Poiblí, mar shampla:

- Deasc Chabhrach agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta do Chustaiméirí
- Seirbhísí Idirghníomhacha ar Líne
- Seirbhísí Teileafóin
- Comhrá Gréasáin

(e.g. clárú le haghaidh seirbhísí poiblí, iarratais ar sheirbhísí tacaíochta agus coinní do sheirbhísí a dhéanamh).

Is measa an folús de bhrí go mbaineann 31% de na gearáin a fuair an Oifig in 2025 le córas na scéimeanna teanga atá imithe in éag agus nach bhfuil córas na gcaighdeán teanga i bhfeidhm go fóill.

Géaraíonn neamhfheidhmiú na dtreoirilínte reachtúla (ailt 9A – 9D d’Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021) go dtí seo an mharbhántacht reatha maidir le feabhsú chearta teanga phobal na Gaeilge. Dá réir, tá na hoibleagáidí a bheidh ar chomhlachtaí poiblí maidir le:

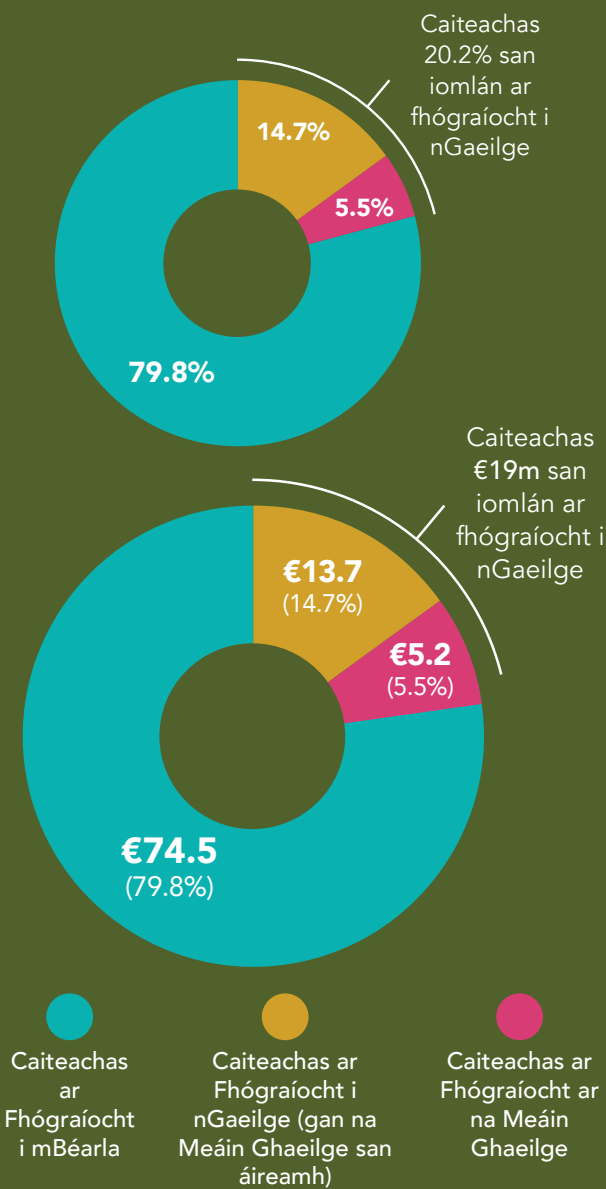
- a chinntiú gur féidir lena gcórais TFC ainmneacha, seoltaí agus teidil daoine a phróiseáil agus a thaifeadadh go cruinn i nGaeilge, mar aon le
- foirmeacha oifigiúla i nGaeilge nó go dátheangach, gan feidhm go fóill.

ALT 10A. – FÓGRAÍOCHT AG COMHLACHTAÍ POIBLÍ

Méadú suntasach ar fhógraíocht i nGaeilge ag comhlachtaí poiblí

Caiteachas Comhlachtaí Poiblí ar Fhógraíocht i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge 2024

	Caiteachas	Céatadán
Caiteachas ar Fhógraíocht i mBéarla	€74.5m	79.8%
Caiteachas ar Fhógraíocht i nGaeilge (seachas na Meáin Ghaeilge)	€13.7m	14.7%
Caiteachas ar Fhógraíocht ar na Meáin Ghaeilge	€5.2m	5.5%



Imscrúduithe Reachtúla

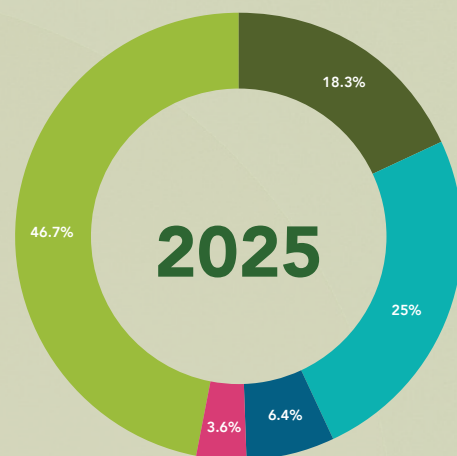
Fuarthas amach in imscrúdú reachtúil gur sháraigh Údarás Fuinneamh Inmharthana na hÉireann alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, arna leasú, ach ar tugadh freagra i mBéarla ar chomhfhreagras i scríbhinn i nGaeilge ó dhuine den phobal. Léiríonn an t-imscrúdú seo freisin an géarghá atá ann go dtabharfadh an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta lánfheidhm d'alt 9B d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021 ach treoirlínte reachtúla a fhoilsiú. D'éileodh na treoirlínte seo ar chomhlachtaí poiblí foirmeacha iarratais oifigiúla a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge nó go dátheangach.

Ba é fionnachtain imscrúdú reachtúil gur sháraigh Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin (BOOGRC) alt 18(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, arna leasú. Tharla an sárú toisc nár chuir BOOGRC córas foirmiúil measúnaithe agus dearbhaithe inniúlachta teanga don Ghaeilge i bhfeidhm agus an Bord ag earcú do phost bainistíochta sinsearaí, mar a cheanglaítear air faoi ghealltanais ina Scéim Teanga Oifigiúil.

Gearáin



Gearáin de réir chineál an chomhlachta poiblí



	2024	2025
Ranna & oifig rialtais	17%	18.3%
Údaráis áitiúla	24%	25%
Údaráis sláinte	5%	6.4%
Údaráis oideachais	4.7%	3.6%
Eagraíochtaí eile Stáit	49.3%	46.7%
Iomlán	100%	100%

Overview of 2025

THE CURRENT LANGUAGE RIGHTS VOID

The delay in the implementation of the statutory language standards system to date has resulted in a substantial gap in basic public services in Irish in the following domains:

- Customer Helpdesk and Support Services
- Online Interactive Services
- Telephone Services
- Web Chat

(e.g. registration for public services, applications for support services and making appointments).

This void is exacerbated by the fact that 31% of complaints made to this Office in 2025 pertain to the expired system of language schemes without the system of language standards being implemented.

The non-implementation of statutory guidelines (sections 9A–9D of the Official Languages Act (Amendment), 2021) to date exacerbates the current stasis in enhancing Irish language rights for the Irish-speaking community. As a result, the obligations for public bodies to:

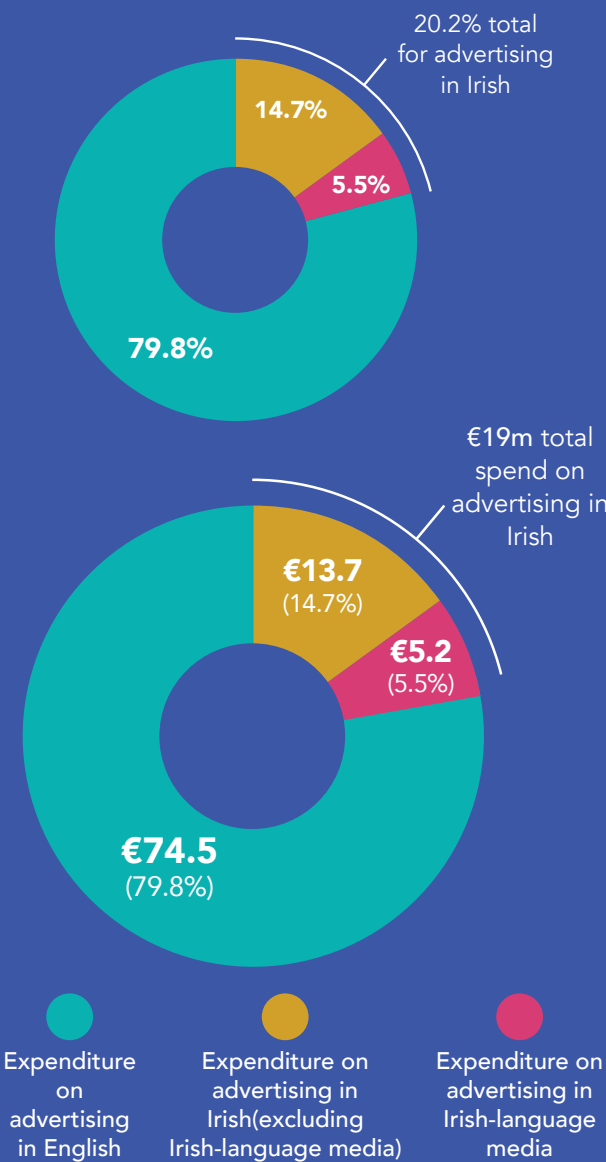
- ensure their ICT systems can accurately process and record individuals’ names, addresses and titles in the Irish language, and
 - provide official forms in Irish or bilingually,
- are still outstanding.

SECTION 10A. – ADVERTISING BY PUBLIC BODIES

Significant increase in advertising in Irish by public bodies

Expenditure by public bodies on Advertising through the medium of English and Irish for 2024

	Expenditure	Percentage
Expenditure on Advertising in English	€74.5m	79.8%
Expenditure on Advertising in Irish (excluding Irish-Language Media)	€13.7m	14.7%
Expenditure on Advertising in Irish-Language Media	€5.2m	5.5%



Statutory Investigations

A statutory investigation found that the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland had breached section 9(2) of the Official Language Act 2003, as amended, by replying to written correspondence in Irish from a member of the public in English. This investigation also highlighted the urgent need for the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to fully implement section 9B of the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021 by publishing statutory guidelines. These guidelines would require public bodies to provide official application forms for public services in Irish or in a bilingual format.

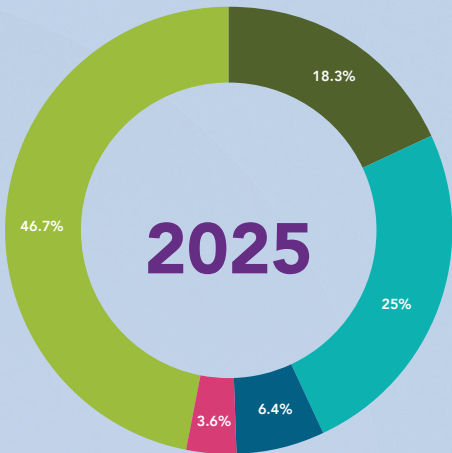


A statutory investigation determined that the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETb) had breached section 18(1) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended. The breach occurred because the GRETb did not implement a formal language proficiency assessment and assurance system for the Irish language when recruiting for a senior management position, as required under a commitment in its Official Language Scheme.

Complaints



Complaints by type of public body



	2024	2025
Government departments & offices	17%	18.3%
Local authorities	24%	25%
Health authorities	5%	6.4%
Education authorities	4.7%	3.6%
Other State organisations	49.3%	46.7%
Total	100%	100%



ACHOIMHRE FHEIDHMEACH

Fearann na nGearán

Bhí líon na ngearán a fuair m’Oifig in 2025 (580) ag teacht, a bheag nó a mhór, le 2024 (596). Amhail 2024, bhain an céatadán is mó de ghearáin in 2025 le fearann na Scéimeanna Teanga. 31% den líon iomlán gearán a fuair m’Oifig in 2025 a bhain le Scéimeanna Teanga i gcomparáid le 37% in 2024. Léiríonn an leibhéal ard gearán sin a bhaineann le gealltanais Scéime Teanga, go bhfuil feabhsú seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge ag brath go mór ar ghealltanais reachtúla nach gcuimsítear i bhforálacha díreacha na reachtaíochta teanga. Is faoi chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga a thagann go leor de na seirbhísí bunúsacha a bhfuil seirbhísí poiblí an lae inniu don phobal ag brath orthu, e.g. seirbhísí tacaíochta do chustaiméirí agus seirbhísí idirghníomhacha ar líne. Léiríonn Tábla 1 thíos na ceithre fhearann reachtúla ba mhó lenar bhain gearáin a fuair m’Oifig i gcaitheamh 2025.

Tábla 1

Fearann Reachtúil	Líon Gearán	%	Cineál Seirbhíse / Easnamh
Scéimeanna Teanga (alt 18(1)) d’Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe	180	31%	Seirbhísí Tacaíochta do Chustaiméirí, Foirmeacha Oifigiúla, Córais Idirghníomhacha ar líne
Comharthaíocht, Stáiseanóireacht, Fógairtí Taifeadta Béil (alt 9(1))	156	27%	Comharthaí, Teidil Chomhlachtaí Poiblí míchruinn ar stáiseanóireacht oifigiúil, fógairtí poiblí i mBéarla amháin nó Gaeilge mhíchruinn

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Complaints

The number of complaints received by my Office in 2025 (580) was generally in line with 2024 (596). As in 2024, the largest percentage of complaints in 2025 related to Language Schemes. 31% of the total number of complaints received by my Office in 2025 related to Language Schemes compared to 37% in 2024. The high number of complaints relating to Language Scheme commitments shows that improving public services in Irish depends on statutory commitments in addition to the direct provisions contained in the primary the language legislation. Many of the basic public services, e.g., customer support and interactive online services, come under the scope of the Language Schemes system. Table 1 below shows the four complaint areas most frequently reported by members of the public to my Office during 2025.

Table 1

Statutory Provision	No. of complaints	%	Type of Service / Deficit
Language Schemes (section 18(1)) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended	180	31%	Customer Support Services, Official Forms, Online Interactive Systems
Signage, Stationery, Recorded Oral Announcements (section 9(1))	156	27%	Signage, inaccurate titles of Public Bodies on official stationery, public announcements in English only or in inaccurate Irish

Fearann Reachtúil	Líon Gearán	%	Cineál Seirbhíse / Easnamh
Cumarsáid i scríbhinn idir ball den phobal agus comhlacht poiblí Alt 9(2)	55	9%	Freagra i scríbhinn i mBéarla ar chumarsáid i scríbhinn i nGaeilge nó freagraí uathoibreacha i scríbhinn i mBéarla amháin
Ainmneacha agus Seoltaí i nGaeilge	45	8%	Míchruinneas i bpróiseáil ainmneacha agus seoltaí poist i nGaeilge

Bhain cuid mhaith de na gearáin a cuireadh faoi bhráid m’Oifige maidir le Scéimeanna Teanga le socruithe a bhí i bhfeidhm ag comhlachtaí poiblí roimh mhí na Nollag 2024, tráth ar aisghairmeadh córas na Scéimeanna Teanga.

Anuas air seo, faoi alt 19A(5) d’Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe, forordaítear go mbeidh de thoradh ar thabhairt i bhfeidhm Chóras nua na gCaighdeán Teanga dualgas a bheith ar aon chomhlacht an caighdeán céanna seirbhíse ar a laghad a sholáthar i nGaeilge faoin gcóras nua mar a bhí faoi Chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga a aisghairmeadh.

Folús Ollmhór Cearta Teanga

Tá 4 bliana caite ó tugadh Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021 isteach ina dhlí. Tá folús tromchúiseach um threisiú chearta teanga Phobal na Gaeilge i láthair na huaire mar gheall ar Chóras na gCaighdeán Teanga a bheith imithe in éag gan córas na Scéimeanna Teanga a bheith i bhfeidhm ina áit. Rinneadh aisghairm ar dhréachtú, ar dhaingniú agus ar fheidhmiú Scéimeanna Teanga i mí na Nollag 2024 nuair a tugadh tosach feidhme d’alt 17 d’Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021. Tharla an aisghairm ar chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga tráth nach raibh an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán tar éis córas nua na gcaighdeán teanga a chur i bhfeidhm in áit chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga. I ndiaidh Olltoghchán 2024, agus tar éis bhunú an Rialtais nua go luath in 2025, aistríodh feidhmeanna na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta chuig an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta.

Statutory Provision	No. of complaints	%	Type of Service / Deficit
Written communication between a member of the public and a public body Section 9 (2).	55	9%	Written response in English to written communication in Irish or automated responses in English only
Names and Addresses in Irish	45	8%	Inaccuracy in processing names and postal addresses in Irish

Many of the complaints received by my Office in relation to Language Schemes related to arrangements public bodies had in place prior to December 2024, when the Language Schemes System was rescinded.

In addition, section 19A(5) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, prescribes that the implementation of the new System of Language Standards will ensure that every public body provides at least the same standard of service in Irish under the new sytem as was the case as under the rescinded System of Language Schemes.

Significant Language Rights Void

It has been four years since the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 was signed into law. Currently, there is a significant gap in strengthening the language rights of Irish speakers because the System of Language Schemes has expired and the System of Language Standards is not yet in place. The drafting, ratification and operation of Language Schemes was repealed in December 2024 with the commencement of section 17 of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021. The repeal of the Language Schemes occurred at a time when the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media had not yet implemented the new system of language standards to replace the existing Language Schemes. Following the 2024 General Election and the establishment of the new Government in early 2025, the functions relating to the Irish language and the Gaeltacht were transferred to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

Cé go bhfuil dhá Roinn Rialtais tar éis a bheith freagrach as Córas nua na gCaighdeán Teanga a thabhairt i bhfeidhm ó achtaíodh Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021, i mí na Nollag 2021 níor tharla sé go fóill. Tá an staid seo ag baint na gcos i láthair na huaire den sprioc náisiúnta um sheirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge a fheabhsú ar bhonn córasach agus céimnithe. Is den dearbhriachtanas é go dtabharfar córas na gCaighdeán Teanga i bhfeidhm gan mhoill leis an bhfólús ollmhór reatha i bhfeabhsú seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge a líonadh.

Is ábhar mór dóchais é a fheiceáil i ndlíní eile mar a ndeachaigh lánfheidhmiú chóras na gcaighdeán teanga acu-san i bhfeidhm go han-dearfach ar sheirbhísí poiblí sa sprioctheanga agus iad a fheabhsú as cuimse. Thuairiscigh Coimisinéir na Breatnaise, mar shampla, go bhfuil géilliúlacht do sholáthar seirbhísí tacaíochta do chustaiméirí faoi choimirce chóras na gcaighdeán teanga sa dlínse sin ag bordáil ar 90%.

Díol suntais é, áfach, an difríocht idir dlínse na hÉireann agus na Breataine Bige maidir le tabhairt i bhfeidhm chóras na gcaighdeán teanga. Sa Bhreatain Bheag is feidhm de chuid Choimisinéir Teanga na Breatnaise é na caighdeán teanga a thabhairt i bhfeidhm. Níl an chumhacht sin, áfach, ag an gCoimisinéir Teanga in Éirinn toisc gur ar an Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta atá an dualgas na caighdeán teanga agus na forálacha reachtúla teanga uile a thabhairt i bhfeidhm.

Spriocdhátaí Reachtúla Caillte

Anuas ar fheidhmiú na gcaighdeán teanga, feictear patrún ag teacht chun cinn ar údar mór imní é i ndáil le feidhmiú na gceart teanga a gealladh do Phobal na Gaeilge in Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021. Mar aon leis na Caighdeán Teanga, léirítear sa tábla thíos na forálacha eile ar tháinig agus ar imigh spriocdhátaí reachtúla ina leith gan iad a thabhairt i bhfeidhm ina n-iomláine mar a forordaíodh.

Údar díomá é seo i bhfianaise gur bhain tús láidir le feidhmiú na reachtaíochta teanga nua agus go bhfuil an-rath, mar shampla, ar an bhforáil maidir le fógraíocht a dhéanann comhlachtaí poiblí i nGaeilge fearacht an dualgais atá ar chomhlachtaí poiblí ball den fhoireann bhainistíochta a ainmniú le cúram a

Although two Government Departments have been responsible for the implementation of the new System of Language Standards since the enactment of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 in December 2021, it has yet to be implemented. This situation is currently undermining the national goal of enhancing public services in Irish through a systematic and phased approach. It is essential that the implementation of the Language Standards system occurs without delay to address the significant gap in advancing public services in Irish.

It is very encouraging to see that in other jurisdictions where their language standards systems have been fully implemented, they have seen a very positive impact on public services in the target language, significantly improving them. The Welsh Language Commissioner, for example, has reported compliance of customer support services with the language standards in that jurisdiction at levels approaching 90%.

However, it is noteworthy that the Irish and Welsh jurisdictions differ in the implementation of the language standards system. In Wales, the implementation of language standards is a function of the Welsh Language Commissioner. However, An Coimisinéir Teanga in Ireland does not have such a power, as the onus is on the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to bring all language standards and statutory language provisions into force.

Missed Statutory Deadlines

Besides implementing the language standards, a serious concern is emerging regarding the exercise of the language rights promised to the Irish Language Community in the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021. As with the Language Standards, the table below shows other provisions for which statutory deadlines have passed without being fully implemented as prescribed.

This is disappointing as the new language legislation initially made good progress. For instance, the requirement for public bodies to advertise in Irish has been very successful, as has the mandate for them to appoint a management

dhéanamh d’fheidhmiú na reachtaíochta teanga. Tá an baol ann, áfach, go dtógfaidh an mhoill atá ar na forálacha criticiúla seo an ghaoth as seolta na reachtaíochta teanga agus go ndéanfaidh sé tuilleadh creimthe ar mhuinín Phobal na Gaeilge maidir le freastal cothrom agus cóir a fháil ón stát chomh fada agus a bhaineann sé le seirbhísí poiblí ina rogha teanga.

Tábla 2: Forálacha ar cailleadh spriocdhátaí reachtúla maidir lena bhfeidhmiú

Foráil - Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021	Spriocdhátaí Reachtúla
Aisghairm ar Scéimeanna Teanga	21 Nollaig 2024
Alt 17 (aisghairm ailt 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 agus 18 d’Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003)	Aisghairmeadh Córas na Scéimeanna Teanga an 21/12/2024 nuair a tugadh éifeacht do gach foráil in Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021 nach raibh an tAire tar éis tosach feidhme a thabhairt dóibh le hIonstraim Reachtúil faoin dáta sin. D’fhorordaigh alt 20(3) den Acht, amlíne 3 bliana le feidhm a thabhairt do na forálacha uile. Ós rud é gur achtaíodh an tAcht leasaithe an 21/12/2021, ba é an 21/12/2024 an dáta réamhshocraithe chun na forálacha uile a bhí gan feidhmiú a thabhairt i bhfeidhm.
Córas Nua na gCaighdeán Teanga (Alt 9)	Níor cuireadh an Córas nua um Chaighdeán Teanga, a forordaíodh a theacht in áit na Scéimeanna Teanga, i bhfeidhm in 2025, cé gur aisghairmeadh Córas na Scéimeanna Teanga, a raibh sé in ainm is a theacht ina n-áit, i mí na Nollag 2024.

team member responsible for implementing the legislation. However, there is a risk that the delay in implementing these critical provisions will undermine the language legislation and further erode the Irish-language community’s confidence in receiving fair and equitable public services from the state in their preferred language.

Table 2: Statutory provisions whose deadlines have expired without full implementation

Provision - Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021	Statutory Deadlines
Repeal of Language Schemes	21 December 2024
Section 17 (repeal of sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the Official Languages Act 2003)	The Language Schemes System was repealed on 21/12/2024, when all outstanding provisions in the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, which had not been commenced with a Statutory Instrument by the Minister by that date, came into effect. Section 20(3) of the Act prescribed a 3-year timeline for the implementation of all provisions. As the amended Act was enacted on 21/12/2021, the default date for the implementation of all outstanding provisions was 21/12/2024.
New Language Standards (section 9)	The new Language Standards System, prescribed to replace the Language Schemes, was not implemented in 2025, although the Language Schemes Systems, which it was designed to replace, were repealed in December 2024.

Foráil - Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021	Spriocdhátaí Reachtúla
Dátaí Gaeltachta (Alt 8)	Eanáir 2025
[Ailt 18D(1)(a)(iii) & 18E(A) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, mar atá leasaithe]	(3 mhí tar éis an Plean Náisiúnta a chur faoi bhráid an Rialtais.) Foilsíodh an Plean Náisiúnta i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2024.
Treoirlínte Reachtúla (Alt 5)	21 Márta 2025
[Ailt 9A – 9D d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, arna leasú] (Ainmneacha, seoltaí poist agus teidil i nGaeilge, foirmeacha oifigiúla, ainmneacha comhlachtaí poiblí agus lógónna) (Tosach Feidhme – I.R. Uimh. 692 de 2024) 21 Nollaig 2024	Alt 9A(4)(a) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, arna leasú (treoirlínte reachtúla le foilsiú ag an Aire tráth nach déanaí ná 3 mhí tar éis thosach feidhme alt 4 mar a fhorordaítear in I.R. Uimh. 692 de 2024 (21 Nollaig 2024)
Athbhreithniú ar Sceideal na gComhlachtaí Poiblí Forordaithe (Alt 15)	Márta 2025
(Tosach Feidhme – I.R. Uimh. 90 de 2023) 13 Márta 2023	Dhá bhliain ó mhí an Mhárta 2023 Leasaítear an Chéad Sceideal a ghabhann leis an bPríomh-Acht Leasú ar mhír 3 (i) den Chéad Sceideal a ghabhann le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, arna leasú

Provision - Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021	Statutory Deadlines
Gaeltacht Dates (Section 8)	January 2025
[Sections 18D(1)(a) (iii) & 18E(A) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended]	(3 months after submission of the National Plan to the Government.) The National Plan was published in October 2024.
Statutory Guidelines (Section 5)	21 March 2025
[Sections 9A – 9D of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended] (Names, postal addresses and titles in Irish, official forms, names of public bodies & logos) (Commencement Order – S.I. No. 692 of 2024) 21 December 2024	Section 9A(4)(a) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended (statutory regulations to be published by the Minister no later than 3 months after the commencement of section 4 as prescribed in S.I. No. 692 of 2024 (21 December 2024)
Review of the Schedule of Prescribed Public Bodies (Section 15)	March 2025
(Commencement – S.I. No. 90 of 2023) 13 March 2023	Two years from March 2023 First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended Amendment to paragraph 3 (i) of the First Schedule of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended

Tá bearnaí suntasacha i gcreat reachtúil na hÉireann do chearta teanga phobal na Gaeilge mar gheall ar na forálacha a liostaítear i dTábla 2 thuas nár cuireadh i bhfeidhm go fóill. Is féidir breathnú ar na forálacha atá i gceist mar thionscadail lena mbaineann scála agus raon feidhme éagsúil. Maidir leis na spriocdhátaí a cailleadh, is cosúil go bhfuil dúshlán maidir le hacmhainneacht i mbainistiú tionscadal ag cur bac ar sheachadadh tráthúil na bhforálacha reachtúla seo a chinntiú. Cuireann an staid reatha béim ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le breithnithe bainistíochta riosca chun a chinntiú go mbeifear in ann tionscadail a chur i gcrích in am agus chun saincheistanna acmhainne comhchosúla a sheachaint le linn chur i bhfeidhm an Phlean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge amach anseo. Ba cheart go n-áireofaí in aon mheasúnú bainistíochta riosca cúnamh seachtrach a lorg maidir le hacmhainneacht agus cur i bhfeidhm tionscadal, mar a rinneadh go stuama agus an Plean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge á ullmhú.

Ireland's statutory framework for Irish-language rights has significant gaps due to the unimplemented provisions listed in Table 2 above. The provisions in question can be viewed as separate projects of varying scale and scope. Regarding the missed deadlines, it seems that capacity issues in project management are hindering the timely delivery of these statutory provisions. The current situation underscores the importance of risk management considerations to ensure the ability to complete projects on time and to avoid similar capacity issues during the rollout of the National Plan for Public Services in Irish. Any risk management assessment should consider seeking external assistance with project resourcing and execution, as was prudently the case when preparing the National Plan for Public Services in Irish.

Imscrúduithe

Léirigh dhá imscrúdú reachtúla bearnaí ollmhóra sna dualgais reachtúla atá ar chomhlachtaí poiblí i láthair na huaire agus an géarghá atá ann go bhfoilseofaí na treoirlínte reachtúla agus córas na gcaighdeán teanga atá idir lámha ag an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta go fóill.

Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann

Léirigh imscrúdú ar Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann (ÚFIÉ) gur sháraigh an Comhlacht Poiblí fo-alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, ach chumarsáid i scríbhinn a eisiúint i mBéarla agus freagra á thabhairt aige ar iarratas a rinne duine den phobal i scríbhinn i nGaeilge ar eolas faoi scéim deontais dá chuid. Is é léiriú m'Oifige go dtagann eolas a ionchur ar fhoirm ar líne, nó ar chruachóip d'fhoirm iarratais, d'fhonn iarratas a dhéanamh ar scéim deontais comhlachta phoiblí atá ar oscailt don phobal nó d'aicme den phobal, faoi scóip fho-alt 9(2) chun críoch cumarsáide i scríbhinn le comhlacht poiblí. Seasann an dualgas chun críoch fho-alt 9(2) fiú sa chás gur foirm iarratais atá i mBéarla agus a

Investigations

Two statutory investigations uncovered significant gaps in current obligations placed on public bodies and highlighted the urgent need for the statutory guidelines and language standards system still being developed by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

An investigation into the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) found that the public body breached subsection 9(2) of the Official Languages Act by issuing a written communication in English in response to a written communication in Irish when a member of the public was inquiring about a grant scheme. My office's interpretation is that submitting information via an online form or on a hard copy of an application form to apply for a public body's grant scheme, which is open to the public or a specific group within the public, falls under the scope of subsection 9(2) for written communication with a public body. The obligation under subsection 9(2) applies even if the application

chomhlánaíonn duine den phobal i nGaeilge atá le freagairt ag an gcomhlacht poiblí. Dá réir sin, cé nach bhfuil dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí foirmeacha oifigiúla a sholáthar i nGaeilge faoi láthair, tá dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí a chinntiú gur i nGaeilge a bhíonn aon chumarsáid i scríbhinn a fhreagraíonn d'iarratas i nGaeilge ó bhall den phobal sa chás gur i mBéarla atá an fhoirm iarratais a chomhlánaíonn duine den phobal i nGaeilge.

Is bocht an scéal é nach bhfuil dualgas go fóill ar chomhlachtaí poiblí amhail Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann (ÚFIÉ) atá ag soláthar seirbhísí forleathana - seirbhísí a bhfuil éileamh ollmhór orthu ón bpobal - foirmeacha oifigiúla a sholáthar i nGaeilge nó go dátheangach. Léiríonn sé seo a rithabhachtaí atá sé go bhfoilseodh an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta na treoirínte reachtúla d'alt 9B d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe. Tá soláthar in alt 9B d'foirmeacha oifigiúla a chur ar fáil don phobal i nGaeilge nó go dátheangach. Is feidhm de chuid an Aire freisin é na comhlachtaí poiblí a bheidh ag teacht faoi scáth alt 9B a ainmniú.

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin (BOOGRC)

Léirigh imscrúdú gur sháraigh Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin an dualgas reachtúil teanga a dhaingnítear i bhfo-alt 18(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe, maidir le feidhmiú gealltanais Scéime Teanga dá chuid. Ba é b'údar an tsáraithe nár fheidhmigh BOOGRC córas creidiúnaithe measúnaithe agus dearbhairthe inniúlachta teanga i leith na Gaeilge le linn an phróisis earcaíochta do phost an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna, mar a gealladh ina Scéim Teanga reachtúil.

Bhí feidhm reachtúil ag gach gealltanais Scéime Teanga a dhaingnigh an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta faoi alt 14 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, mar atá leasaithe, le comhlacht poiblí. Tá dualgas ar an gcomhlacht poiblí ábhartha, dá réir, gealltanais Scéime Teanga a chomhlíonadh ina n-iomláine ansin faoi alt 18 den Acht.

form is in English and a member of the public completes it in Irish, requiring a written response in Irish from the public body in such a case. Accordingly, while public bodies are not currently obliged to provide official forms in Irish, public bodies are obliged to ensure that any written communication responding to an application in Irish from a member of the public is in Irish even if the application form itself is in English.

It is regrettable that public bodies such as the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), which provide extensive services that are in high demand by the public, are not yet required to provide official forms in Irish or bilingually. This situation underscores the urgent need for the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to publish the statutory guidelines for section 9B of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended. Section 9B requires that official forms be available to the public in Irish or in both Irish and English. The Minister also has the function of prescribing the public bodies that fall within the scope of section 9B.

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETb)

An investigation has revealed that the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board breached the statutory language obligation ratified in subsection 18(1) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, in relation to the implementation of Language Scheme commitments. The breach arose from the fact that GRETb did not implement an accredited system for assessing and assuring competency in the Irish language during the recruitment process for the post of Director of Schools, as prescribed in its statutory language scheme.

Every Language Scheme commitment ratified by the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht under section 14 of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, holds a statutory obligation for a public body. Accordingly, the relevant public body has a duty to fully comply with Language Scheme commitments under section 18 of the Act.

D'éiligh gealltanais Scéime Teanga (Mír 6.3 (Poist Shainithe Ghaeilge) BOOGRC go mbeadh:

'caighdeáin shonraithe chreidiúnaithe sa Ghaeilge bainte amach ag sealbhóirí'

áirithe don raon post bainistíochta a sonraíodh i Mír 6.3 den Scéim Teanga freisin, lena n-áirítear rólanna mar stiúrthóirí. Sainíodh i Mír 6.3 gur 'Ardleibhéal inmhianaithe' a bhí ábhartha ó thaobh inniúlachta i nGaeilge don raon post ar sonraíodh poist mar stiúrthóirí ina measc. Dá réir sin, bhí dualgas ar an mBord a chinntiú go gcuirfí córas creidiúnaithe measúnaithe agus dearbhaithe inniúlachta teanga i leith na Gaeilge i bhfeidhm le linn an phróisis earcaíochta do phoist mar stiúrthóirí, post an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna san áireamh.

D'áitigh BOOGRC le linn an imscrúdaithe gur ról éagsúil stiúrthóra a bhí i ról an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna agus in dhá phost bainistíochta eile; Stiúrthóir um Thacaíocht agus Fhorbairt Eagraíochta agus Stiúrthóir Breisoideachais agus Oiliúna. Thug BOOGRC le fios don Imscrúdú gur i gcomhréir le treoirlinnte ón Roinn Oideachais in 2016 a cruthaíodh na trí phost bainistíochta seo agus nár tháinig siad faoi scóip an ghealltanais i Mír 6.3 den Scéim Teanga. Daingníodh Scéimeanna Teanga nua do BOOGRC, áfach, do na tréimhsí 2018 – 2021 agus 2021 – 2024 agus níor mhol BOOGRC aon leasú ar mhír 6.3 sna Scéimeanna Teanga sin de réir an áitimh thuasluaite.

Ba é forléiriú m'Oifige go dtagann ról an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna faoi scóip na rólanna mar 'stiúrthóirí' a shainítear i Mír 6.3 (Poist Shainithe Ghaeilge) de na Scéimeanna Teanga éagsúla. Dá réir, bhí dualgas ar an mBord próiseas iontaofa measúnaithe agus dearbhaithe inniúlachta teanga, amhail Comhchreat Tagartha na hEorpa um Theangacha, a leagan síos ó thús an phróisis earcaíochta, próiseas a dhéanfadh inniúlacht 'Ardleibhéil Inmhianaithe' i nGaeilge a thomhas go córasach. Dá oireasa sin, bhí iontaofacht an chórais mheasúnaithe agus dearbhaithe inniúlachta Gaeilge a d'fheidhmigh BOOGRC gan bhonn agus ag sárú an dualgais reachtúil teanga a forordaíodh ina Scéim Teanga.

The Language Scheme commitment (Section 6.3 (Designated Irish Language Posts) of GRETB required that:

'holders have attained specified accreditation standards in the Irish language'

for the range of management posts specified in Section 6.3 of the Language Scheme, including roles such as directors. Section 6.3 defined Irish language competence for the range of posts, including directors' posts as 'Advanced desirable'. Accordingly, the Board had a duty to ensure that an accredited system of Irish language competence assessment and assurance was implemented during the recruitment process for director roles, including that of the Director of Schools.

GRETB contended during the investigation that the roles of the Director of Schools and two other management posts, the Director of Organisational Support and Development and the Director of Further Education and Training, were different director roles. GRETB advised in the investigation that these three management posts were created in 2016 in accordance with Department of Education guidelines and did not fall within the scope of the commitment in Section 6.3 of the Language Scheme. However, new Language Schemes had been ratified with GRETB for the periods 2018 – 2021 and 2021 – 2024, and no amendment to paragraph 6.3 had been proposed by GRETB in those Language Schemes in accordance with the aforementioned argument.

My office's interpretation was that the role of the Director of Schools falls within the scope of the 'directors' roles defined in Section 6.3 (Designated Irish Language Posts) of the various Language Schemes. Accordingly, the Board had a duty to put in place a reliable language competence assessment and assurance process, such as the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, from the outset of the recruitment process, which would systematically measure 'Advanced desirable' in relation to competence in Irish. Consequently, the Irish language competency assessment and assurance system operated by GRETB was unreliable and breached the statutory language obligation outlined in its Language Scheme.

Léiríonn an t-imscrúdú ar BOOGRC an géarghá atá ann go ndéanfaí iniúchadh ar na poist bhainistíochta i gcomhlachtaí poiblí atá ag cur seirbhísí ar fáil do Phobal na Gaeltachta. Ba chóir an t-iniúchadh seo a dhéanamh mar chuid den Phleanáil Fórsa Saothair is gá a dhéanamh mar chroíchuid den den Phlean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge atá an Coiste Comhairleach um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge a stiúradh. Bhunaigh an tAire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an Coiste reachtúil seo i mí an Mheithimh 2022. Tá feidhmeanna reachtúla rithábachtach ag an gCoiste maidir le feidhmiú na forála 20% d'earcaigh ag a bhfuil inniúlacht i nGaeilge ar fud na Seirbhíse Poiblí. Is féidir leis an gCoiste Comhairleach moltaí a dhéanamh don Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta freisin maidir le seirbhísí ar chóir caighdeáin teanga a fhorordú ina leith. Dá réir sin d'fhéadfaí na seirbhísí atá bainisteoirí sinsearach a i gcomhlachtaí poiblí a sholáthar do phobal na Gaeltachta a shainaithint agus an leibhéal inniúlachta teanga den Chomhchreat Tagartha na hEorpa um Theangacha a bheadh riachtanach do shealbhóirí na bpost sin a shainiú trí na caighdeáin teanga nua a fhorordóidh an tAire Forbartha Pobail agus Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta.

An Plean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge

Beart suntasach stairiúil a bhí i bhfoilsíú an chéad Phlean Náisiúnta i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2024 maidir le forbairt seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge. Tugadh cúram don Choiste Comhairleach um Sheirbhísí Gaeilge (An Coiste Comhairleach) an Plean Náisiúnta a ullmhú agus a fheidhmiú. Tá scóip agus spriocanna an Phlean Náisiúnta le moladh. Beidh foilsíú an chéad cheann de dhá phlean gníomhaíochta a chuirfidh bonn faoin bPlean Náisiúnta rithábachtach chun na cuspóirí atá sa bPlean Náisiúnta a fhíorú.

Léiríonn Léaráid A na crainn taca a chuirfidh bonn faoi Phlean Náisiúnta rathúil.

The investigation into the GRETB highlights the urgent need to carry out an audit of management posts in public bodies that provide services to the Gaeltacht community. This audit should be carried out as part of the Workforce Planning required as a core element of the National Plan for Irish Language Public Services, which the Irish Language Public Services Advisory Committee is overseeing. This statutory Committee was established by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in June 2022. The Committee has critical statutory functions in relation to the implementation of the 20% Irish-language-proficient recruits to the Public Service. The Advisory Committee can also make recommendations to the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht regarding services for which language standards should be prescribed. Accordingly, the services that senior managers in public bodies provide to the Gaeltacht community can be identified, and the level of language competence required for these positions within the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages can be defined by the new language standards to be prescribed by the Minister for Community and Rural Development and the Gaeltacht.

The National Plan for Irish Language Public Services

The publication of the first National Plan related to the development of public services in Irish was a significant historical milestone. The Irish Language Services Advisory Committee (The Advisory Committee) was tasked with preparing and implementing the National Plan. The scope and objectives of the National Plan are commendable. The publication of the first of the two action plans supporting the National Plan will be crucial to achieving its objectives.

Diagram A illustrates the pillars that will underpin a successful National Plan.

Léaráid A

Crainn Taca an Phlean Náisiúnta

Is é príomhchuspóir an Phlean Náisiúnta conair shoiléir a leagan amach chun líon agus caighdeán seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge, a mhéadú agus a fheabhsú.

Tá ról ríthábhachtach ag an gCoiste Comhairleach um Sheirbhísí Gaeilge, a bhunaigh an tAire Gaeltachta i mí an Mheithimh 2022, i bhforbairt an Phlean agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar a chur i bhfeidhm. Sheol an Rialtas an chéad Phlean Náisiúnta i Mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2024.

Caighdeáin Teanga Nua

- Is é córas nua na gCaighdeáin Teanga a leagfaidh amach cé na seirbhísí poiblí nua a chaithfidh comhlachtaí poiblí a sholáthar i nGaeilge.
- Leagfaidh na Caighdeáin Teanga amach freisin an leibhéal inniúlachta sa Ghaeilge a chaithfidh a bheith ag an bhfoireann a bheidh ag soláthar na seirbhíse thar ceann an chomhlachta poiblí.
- Aire na Gaeltachta a leagfaidh síos na Caighdeáin Teanga nua a bhfuil ar chomhlachtaí poiblí cloí leo.



20% d'Earcaigh inniúil sa Ghaeilge

- Tá dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí a chinntiú go mbeidh inniúlacht sa Ghaeilge ag duine as gach cúigear ball foirne a earcaíonn siad idir Bealtaine 2022 – Nollaig 2030.
- Teastaíonn cur chuige córasach náisiúnta le comhordú agus tomhais a dhéanamh ar chur chun cinn na forála 20%.

An Plean Náisiúnta



Bonneagar Náisiúnta

- Ní mór an bonneagar náisiúnta do sheachadadh seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge a fheabhsú go mór.
- Caithfear breithniú a dhéanamh ar mholchamps réigiúnacha a bhunú sa Ghaeltacht agus ar fud an bhonneagair náisiúnta pleanála teanga chun feabhas a chur ar rochtain ar chroiseirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge. Chabhródh mholchamps den sórt sin le dlús seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge a threisiú, dlús na foirne le Gaeilge san earnáil phoiblí a threisiú, agus ag an am céanna freastal ar éileamh méadaithe ar sheirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge ó phobal na teanga.



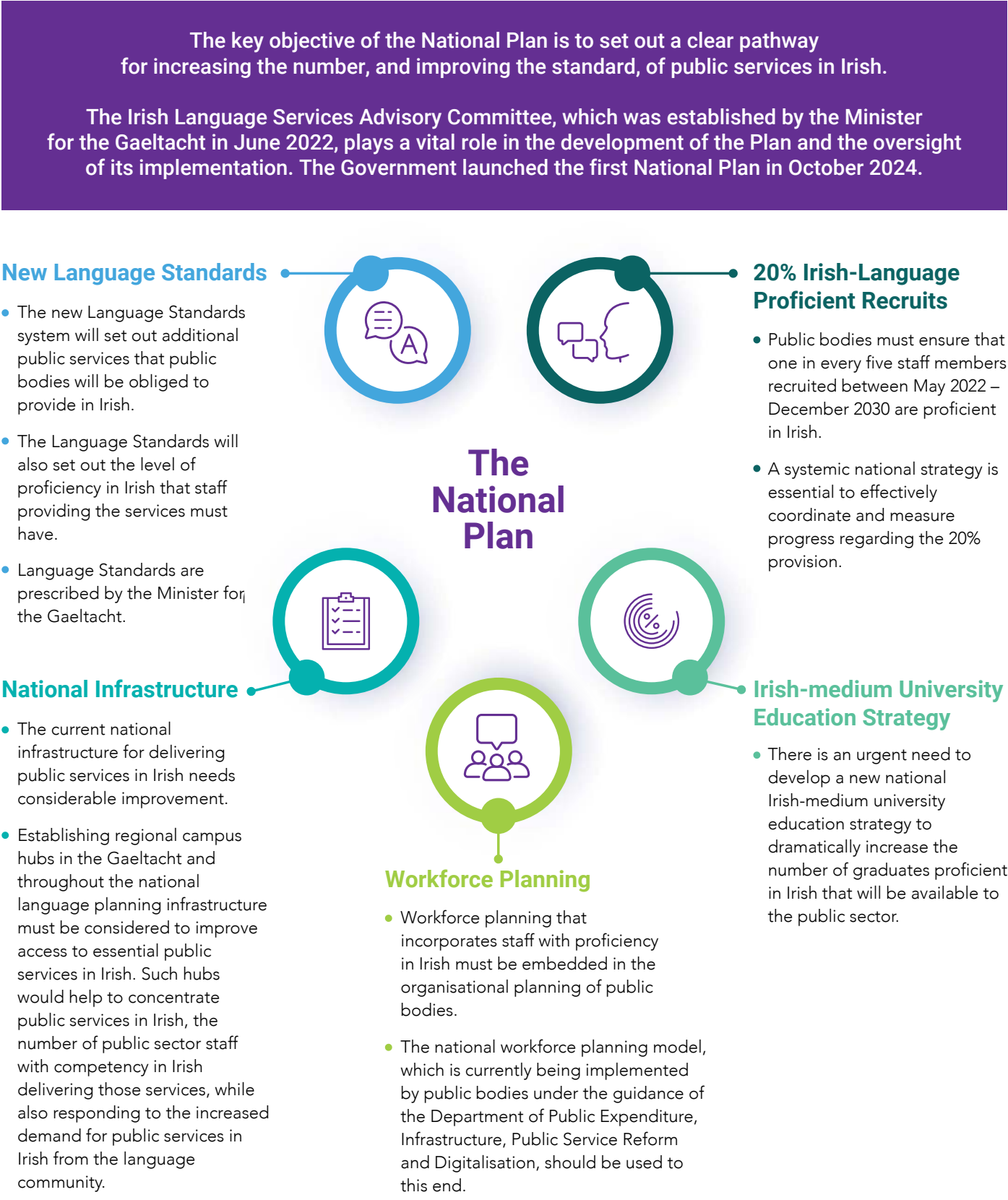
Pleanáil Fórsa Saothair le Gaeilge

- Caithfear pleanáil don fhórsa saothair atá inniúil sa Ghaeilge a neadú i bpleanáil eagraíochtúil na gcomhlachtaí poiblí.
- Ba chóir an tsamhail phleanála d'fhórsa saothair náisiúnta atá á feidhmiú cheana ag comhlachtaí poiblí faoi threoir na Roinne Caiteachais Phoiblí, Bonneagair, Athchóiriúcháin Seirbhíse Poiblí agus Digitiúcháin a fheidhmiú chun na críche seo.

Straitéis Ollscolaíochta Gaeilge

- Tá géar-riachtanas ann straitéis náisiúnta nua don Ollscolaíocht Ghaeilge a fhorbairt d'fhonn méadú as cuimse a chur ar líon na gcéimithe le Gaeilge a bheidh ar fáil don tseirbhís phoiblí.

Diagram A
Cornerstones of the National Plan



Tá dhá chrann taca a bhfuil tábhacht ar leith ag baint leo; ar an gcéad dul síos tá an fhoráil reachtúil go mbeidh 20% den fhoireann a earcófar sa tSeirbhís Phoiblí, idir Meitheamh 2022 agus Nollaig 2030, inniúil i nGaeilge. Ar an dara crann taca tá córas na gcaighdeán teanga thuasluaite a leagfaidh amach go sonrach na seirbhísí a bheidh dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí a sholáthar i nGaeilge, agus an leibhéal inniúlachta sa Ghaeilge a chaithfidh a bheith ag an bhfoireann a bheidh ag soláthar na seirbhísí sin thar ceann an chomhlachta poiblí.

Pleanáil Fórsa Saothair

Teastaíonn fo-thionscadal ar leith don Phleanáil Fórsa Saothair a bhunú faoin bPlean Náisiúnta chun dóthain foirne ag a bhfuil inniúlacht i nGaeilge a earcú agus a chothú. Beidh sé seo riachtanach le stiúradh a dhéanamh ar fheidhmiú na forála earcaíochta 20% go córasach ar bhonn náisiúnta. Tá sé riachtanach go dtiomsaítear mionsonraí ar chleachtais earcaíochta foirne ag a bhfuil inniúlacht i nGaeilge ar fud an 500 comhlacht poiblí a thagann faoi scáth na reachtaíochta teanga má tá bunsraith láidir le leagan faoin bPlean Náisiúnta.

Beart Práinneach

Caithfear pleanáil d'fhórsa saothair atá inniúil sa Ghaeilge a neadú i bpleanáil eagraíochtúil na gcomhlachtaí poiblí. Níl aon fhianaise á feiceáil ag m'Oifig i láthair na huaire, áfach, go bhfuil earcú foirne atá inniúil i nGaeilge ag tarlú ar bhonn comhordaithe agus náisiúnta mar atá riachtanach chun críoch na forála earcaíochta 20%.

Beidh éifeachtúlacht an Phlean Náisiúnta ag brath go mór ar thomhas cruinn agus leanúnach a dhéanamh ar:

1. Leibhéal na hinniúlachta i nGaeilge i measc na foirne reatha atá ag obair sa tSeirbhís Phoiblí
 - a. Mar a bhfuil an fhoireann seo ag obair,
 - b. An raon scileanna atá acu, agus
 - c. An grád lena mbaineann a bpost reatha
2. Mionsonrú a dhéanamh ar an líon foirne agus ar an raon scileanna a bheidh ag teastáil leis na seirbhísí nua a bheidh le soláthar de thoradh theacht i bhfeidhm chóras na gcaighdeán teanga.

Two key pillars are particularly significant: first, the statutory requirement that 20% of staff recruited into the Public Service from June 2022 to December 2030 must be proficient in Irish. The second is the language standards system previously mentioned, which will define the specific services that public bodies are required to deliver in Irish and specify the Irish language competence level that staff must have when providing those services.

National Workforce Planning

A separate workforce planning sub-project needs to be established under the National Plan to recruit and retain sufficient numbers of Irish-language-proficient staff. This step is critical to provide clear guidance for the systematic implementation of the 20% recruitment provision nationwide. It is crucial that information on Irish-language-proficient staff recruitment practices is gathered across the 500 public bodies covered by the language legislation to establish a solid foundation under the National Plan.

Urgent Action

Planning for a workforce proficient in Irish must be integrated into the organisational planning of public bodies. However, my Office is not currently observing evidence that the recruitment of Irish-language-proficient staff is occurring in a coordinated, nationwide manner, as required for the 20% recruitment target.

The effectiveness of the National Plan will depend heavily on accurate and continuous measurement of:

1. The level of proficiency in Irish among current staff working in public services
 - a. Where these staff work,
 - b. Their skillset, and
 - c. The grade at which their current role is
2. Detail the number of staff and skills required to deliver the new services to be provided as a result of the implementation of the language standards system.

3. Tagarmharcáil a dhéanamh ar an líon foirne a theastóidh chun na seirbhísí poiblí a fhorordófar sna caighdeáin teanga a sholáthar ar ardchaighdeán go lánaímseartha.

Tá baint mhór ag na rannáin um Sheachadadh Claochlaithe Seirbhíse Poiblí agus um Fhórsa Saothair na Roinne Caiteachais Phoiblí, Bonneagair, Athchóiriúcháin na Seirbhíse Poiblí agus Digitiúcháin cheana féin le planáil fórsa saothair agus le planáil straitéiseach ar fud na hearnála poiblí thar ceann an Rialtais. Beidh sé riachtanach cúnamh a fháil ó na rannáin seo ionas gurbh fhéidir an straitéis planála fórsa saothair d'fhoireann atá inniúil i nGaeilge a fheidhmiú ar bhonn córasach go náisiúnta.

3. Benchmarking the number of full-time staff needed to provide the public services outlined in the language standards.

The Public Service Transformation Delivery Unit and Workforce divisions within the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation are already heavily involved in workforce and strategic planning across the public sector on behalf of the Government. Assistance from these divisions will be critical to implementing the workforce planning strategy for Irish-language-proficient staff on a systematic basis nationally.

Molchampais Seirbhísí Poiblí sa Ghaeltacht

Tá géarghá ann bonneagar nua seirbhísí poiblí a fhorbairt sa Ghaeltacht le dul i ngleic le go leor de na bacanna agus na moilleanna a bhfuil eispéireas ag pobal na Gaeltachta orthu faoi láthair maidir le teacht ar sheirbhísí ar ardchaighdeán i nGaeilge. Rachadh molchampais ina mbeadh mais chriticiúil de sheirbhísí poiblí á soláthar i nGaeilge agus ina mbeadh dlús foirne le Gaeilge mhaith lonnaithe i ngleic le go leor de na bacanna atá i gceist. Bhainfeadh na molchampais nua leas as an athrú digiteach chun seirbhísí poiblí a sholáthar ar an láthair agus ar líne agus chothóidís dlús éilimh ón bpobal Gaeltachta ar sheirbhísí. Luífeadh an fhorbairt seo isteach go huile agus go hiomlán le feidhmeanna alt 18E(a) agus alt 18E(b) an Achta leasaithe (2021) freisin go mbeidh an Ghaeilge ina teanga oibre in oifigí na gcomhlachtaí poiblí sa Ghaeltacht ó dháta a fhorordóidh an tAire Forbartha Pobail agus Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta. Tá deiseanna suntasacha ann go bhféadfaí na molchampais a chomhtháthú leis sa mbonneagar oideachais tríú leibhéal, teicneolaíochta (e.g. gteiceanna), sealbhaithe agus buanaithe teanga atá an Stát tar éis a fhorbairt sa Ghaeltacht cheana féin.

Is féidir na molchampais a léiriú freisin mar bheart náisiúnta díláraithe, ní amháin le freastal níos fearr ar an bpobal teanga ach le dul i ngleic le róbhrú ar cheantair uirbeacha ó thaobh athrú aeráide agus

Gaeltacht Public Services Hubs

There is an urgent need to develop new public service infrastructure in the Gaeltacht to overcome many of the barriers and delays that the Gaeltacht community currently faces in accessing quality services Irish. Campus hubs delivering public services in Irish would provide a critical mass of services and staff proficient in Irish, addressing many of the associated barriers. The new hubs would harness digital transformation to deliver public services on-site and online and foster confidence and increased demand from the Gaeltacht community for public services in Irish. This development would complement the functions of section 18E(a) and section 18E(b) of the amended Act (2021), which also provide that Irish will be the working language of the offices of public bodies in the Gaeltacht from a date prescribed by the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. There are significant opportunities for the hubs to be integrated into third level education, technology (e.g. gteics), language acquisition and sustainment infrastructure already developed by the State in the Gaeltacht.

The hubs can also be interpreted as a national decentralisation measure, not only to better serve the language community but also to address pressure on urban areas in the context of climate

tógáil ar chleachtais nua-bhunaithe maidir le hobair chumaisc. Tá aitheantas idirnáisiúnta ann don dílárú, dá ngairtear dílárú riaracháin freisin, mar mhúnla rialachais a bhaineann le húsáid éifeachtúil acmhainní agus mar mhúnla nuálach seachadta seirbhíse poiblí. Tá an dioscúrsa le déanaí maidir le dílárú an rialachais poiblí fite fuaite le hathrú digiteach san earnáil poiblí. Is é an réasúnaíocht atá leis go bhfuarthas amach go dtacaíonn an t-athrú digiteach le dílárú an rialachais poiblí, le feabhas a chur ar éifeachtúlacht fhoriomlán na heagraíochta agus le breisluach poiblí a chruthú do shaoránaigh. Tacaíonn athrú digiteach le hiarrachtaí eagraíochtaí poiblí an leas is fearr a bhaint as dílárú rialachais poiblí mar go gcuireann sé leis na nithe seo a leanas: éifeachtúlacht rialtais áitiúil agus stáit, rannpháirtíocht saoránach, cumhachtú saoránach, muinín an phobail, agus leanúnachas riaracháin poiblí.

Cúrsaí Pleanála sa Gaeltacht

Léiríonn imscrúduithe a thug an Oifig seo i gcrích le roinnt blianta anuas go bhfuil easpa comhréire agus leanúnachais sa tslí a bpléann na húdaráis áitiúla le hiarratais phleanála sa Gaeltacht. Aithnítear laigí ollmhóra i gcleachtais na nÚdaráis Áitiúil maidir le socruithe measúnachta tionchair teanga agus tástála inniúlachta teanga in iarratais phleanála, ar mhaithe le buanú na Gaeilge mar phríomhtheanga theaghlaigh agus phobail sa Gaeltacht a chinntiú. Níor leagadh slata tomhais soiléire teangeolaíocha síos go náisiúnta ach an oiread maidir le socruithe coibhneasa céatadáin do líon na n-áitritheoirí le Gaeilge ba chóir a bheith ceangailte le forbairtí ilaonad tithíochta sna limistéir Ghaeltachta éagsúla. Is buncheist í freisin an t-aitheantas agus an t-ualú ar leith ba chóir a thabhairt don Ghaeilge in iarratais ar thithe aonair a thógáil sa Gaeltacht.

Cé go raibh soláthar san Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000, fearacht an Achta um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2024 faoi láthair maidir leis an riachtanas:

“oidhreacht theangeolaíoch agus chultúrtha na Gaeltachta a chosaint, an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn san áireamh mar theanga an phobail”,

nuair atá ceantar Ghaeltachta i limistéar riaracháin údaráis phleanála léiríonn na laigí thuasluaite an géarghá atá le treoirlínte reachtúla sonracha le déileáil le mórcheist na pleanála sa Gaeltacht.

change and to build on newly established practices of blended working. There is international recognition of decentralisation, also called administrative decentralisation, as a governance model associated with the efficient use of resources and as an innovative approach to public service delivery. The recent discourse on decentralisation of public governance is intertwined with digital change in the public sector. The rationale is that digital transformation supports the decentralisation of public governance, enhances the overall efficiency of organisations, and creates added value for citizens. Digital transformation supports public organisations’ efforts to make the most of the decentralisation of public governance, as it contributes to the efficiency of local and regional government, citizen engagement, citizen empowerment, public confidence, and the continuity of public administration.

Gaeltacht Planning

Investigations by this Office over the past number of years have shown a lack of consistency and continuity in the way local authorities deal with planning applications in the Gaeltacht. Significant weaknesses are identified in local authority practices regarding language impact assessment and language proficiency testing arrangements for planning applications to ensure the continuation of Irish as the primary household and community language in the Gaeltacht. Clear linguistic standards have not been established at a national level regarding the proportion of multi-unit housing developments that should be reserved for Irish-speaking residents within the Gaeltacht. A key issue is the specific recognition and weighting that the Irish language should be given in applications for building one-off homes in the Gaeltacht.

While the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the current Planning and Development Act 2024 provide for the requirement to:

“protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht, promoting Irish as the language of the community”,

where there is a Gaeltacht area within the administrative area of a planning authority, the abovementioned weaknesses reflect the urgent need for specific statutory guidelines to address the major planning issues in the Gaeltacht.

Cé gur eisigh an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht treoirlínte in 2022 faoin Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000, níor dhéileáil na treoirlínte sin leis na laigí sonracha teangeolaíocha a luaitear anuasana.

Thrácht an tAire Stáit sa Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht ar na treoirlínte reachtúla nua atá de dhíth i nDáil Éireann an 25/11/2025 nuair a thug sé uasdátú ina leith:

‘Tá Grúpa Idir-rannach (ina bhfuil mo Roinn féin, an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus na Gaeltachta (DRCDG) agus Údarás na Gaeltachta) fós ag leanúint lena chuid oibre maidir le treoirlínte pleanála sonracha a fhorbairt do cheantair Ghaeltachta. Tá Grúpa Oibre ar leith ann freisin atá comhdhéanta den dá Roinn agus Údarás na Gaeltachta agus na húdaráis áitiúla ábhartha a bhfuil ceantair Ghaeltachta acu. Bhí cruinnithe den Ghrúpa Idir-rannach agus den Ghrúpa Oibre ar siúl in 2023 agus lean rannpháirtíocht déthaobhach na Roinne ar aghaidh isteach in 2024 agus isteach in 2025, agus an cruinniú is déanaí ar siúl i mí Iúil 2025.’

Tá géarghá ann go dtabharfar na treoirlínte reachtúla a rachaidh i ngleic leis na heasnamh thuasluaite maidir le forbairt tithíochta sa nGaeilge i bhfeidhm gan mhoill.

Cúrsaí Oideachais

Tá leibhéal an tsoláthair don iar-bhunscolaíocht lán-Ghaeilge lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht á fhiosrú agam leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Óige. Is é is bonn leis an bhfiosrú seo na cearta teanga a fhorordaítear san Acht Oideachais, 1998, lena n-áirítear na forálacha seo a leanas in alt 6 an Achta sin.

An tAcht Oideachais 1998 - Cuspóirí an Achta

Gach duine a mbeidh baint aige nó aici leis an Acht seo a chur i ngníomh, beidh aird aige nó aici ar na cuspóirí seo a leanas ar dá mbun a d’achtaigh an tOireachtas an tAcht seo:

- (i) cuidiú le réadú beartas agus cuspóirí náisiúnta i ndáil le leathadh an dátheangachais i sochaí na hÉireann agus go háirithe go mbainfí úsáid níos mó as an nGaeilge ar scoil agus sa phobal;

Although the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued guidelines in 2022 under the Planning and Development Act 2000, those guidelines did not address the specific linguistic weaknesses mentioned above.

The Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage commented on the new statutory guidelines required in Dáil Éireann on 25/11/2025 with the following update:

‘An Interdepartmental Group (comprising my own Department, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) and Údarás na Gaeltachta) continues its work in developing specific planning guidelines for Gaeltacht areas. There is also a separate working group comprising both departments, Údarás na Gaeltachta, and the relevant local authorities within Gaeltacht areas. Meetings of the Interdepartmental Group and Working Group took place in 2023, and the department’s bilateral engagement continued into 2024 and 2025, with the most recent meeting in July 2025.’ (Translated for this report).

There is an urgent need for statutory guidelines to address the aforementioned deficiencies in housing developments in the Gaeltacht to be enacted without delay.

Education Matters

I am currently investigating the level of provision for post-primary Irish-medium education outside the Gaeltacht with the Department of Education and Youth. This investigation is underpinned by the language rights prescribed in the Education Act 1998, including the provisions in section 6 of that Act.

Education Act 1998 – Objectives of the Act

Every person concerned in the implementation of this Act shall have regard to the following objects in pursuance of which the Oireachtas has enacted this Act:

- (i) to contribute to the realisation of national policy and objectives in relation to the extension of bi-lingualism in Irish society and in particular the achievement of a greater use of the Irish language at school and in the community;

agus

- (k) riachtanais teanga agus chultúrtha mac léinn a chur chun cinn ag féachaint do roghanna a dtuismitheoirí.

Tá sé i gceist agam tuarascáil ar leith faoi alt 30(3) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe, a fhoilsiú ar an ábhar seo.

Úsáid na Gaeilge le linn Toghchán

Is ceart tábhachtach teanga é go mbeadh pobal na Gaeilge in ann an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus go ndéanfaí freastal cóir air ina rogha teanga agus é ag feidhmiú a chirt dhaonlathaigh le linn toghchán agus reifreann. Faigheann m'Óifig gearáin go rialta maidir le húsáid mhíchruinn na Gaeilge agus easpa seirbhísí i nGaeilge le linn toghchán agus reifreann. Is féidir na gearáin a rangú faoi na ceannteidil seo a leanas:

	Mír	Bearna
1.	Comharthaíocht	Easpa comharthaí i nGaeilge nó comharthaí i nGaeilge a bhíonn míchruinn ag Stáisiúin Vótaíochta agus ag Ionaid Chomhairimh Toghcháin
2.	Líofacht i labhairt na Gaeilge	Oifigh Cheannais agus Cléirigh Vótála a bhíonn lonnaithe i Stáisiúin Vótaíochta i gceantair Ghaeltachta agus in Ionaid Chomhairimh Toghcháin ag bordáil ar limistéir Ghaeltachta
3.	Cártaí Faisnéise Vótaíochta	Míchruinneas in ainmneacha, seoltaí agus teidil bhaill an phobail i nGaeilge. Seoltaí poist Stáisiúin Vótaíochta i gceantair Ghaeltachta i mBéarla
4.	Foirmeacha agus Cáipéisíocht Toghchánaíochta	Gan a bheith ar fáil i nGaeilge

Is ar na Cinn Chomhairimh a thiteann go leor de na cúraimí maidir leis na nithe dá dtagaítear thuasluaite. Is í an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtas Áitiúil

and

- (k) to promote the language and cultural needs of students having regard to the choices of their parents.

I intend to publish a separate report under section 30(3) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, on this matter.

Use of Irish during Elections

It is a fundamental right that the Irish language community should be able to use the Irish language and be accommodated fairly in their language of choice while exercising their democratic rights during elections and referendums. My Office regularly receives complaints regarding the inaccurate use of Irish and the lack of services in Irish during elections and referendums. The complaints can be classified under the following headings:

	Item	Deficit
1.	Signage	Lack of signs in Irish or signs in Irish that are inaccurate at polling stations and election returning centres
2.	Fluency in spoken Irish	Presiding officers and polling clerks stationed at polling stations in Gaeltacht areas and in electoral returning centres bordering on Gaeltacht areas
3	Polling Information Cards	Inaccuracies in the names, addresses and titles of members of the public in Irish. Polling station postal addresses in English in Gaeltacht areas
4	Electoral Forms and Documentation	Not available in Irish

The aforementioned issues primarily come under the functions of Returning Officers. Arrangements to print the Polling Information Cards are made by the

agus Oidhreacht a bhíonn i mbun socruithe leis na Cártaí Faisnéise Vótaíochta a chur i gcló i gcomhar le tríú páirtí. Tá na Cinn Chomhairimh neamhspleách i gcomhlíonadh a ndualgas faoin Acht Toghcháin, 1992, agus ní fhorordaítear iad i láthair na huaire ina gcomhlachtaí poiblí faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe. Tá ról an-tábhachtach ag na Cinn Chomhairimh i dtaca le cearta bunúsacha agus bunreachtúla an tsaoaránaigh i leith páirt a ghlacadh i gcleachtadh an daonlathais.

I bhfianaise na mbearnaí a luaitear anuasana sa bhfreastal atáthar a dhéanamh ar phobal na Gaeilge, táim tar éis an riachtanas atá ann go bhforodófaí na Cinn Chomhairimh a tharraingt anuas leis an Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta. Táthar tar éis sealbhóirí oifigí reachtúla eile a fhorordú roimhe seo ar sceideal na gcomhlachtaí poiblí d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe. Tá fasaigh i reachtaíocht eile in Éirinn freisin ina léirítear duine nó sealbhóir oifige reachtúla ina chomhlacht poiblí.

Fógraíocht i nGaeilge ag Comhlachtaí Poiblí

Tá dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí faoi alt 10A (Fógraíocht ag Comhlachtaí Poiblí), d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe, sciar dá bhfógraíocht a dheánadh i nGaeilge chuile bhliain. Léirigh tuarascáil a d'fhoilsigh m'Oifig ag Oireachtas na Samhna i mBéal Feirste i mí na Samhna 2025 gur chaith comhlachtaí poiblí €19m ar fhógraíocht i nGaeilge in 2024. Is ionann an caiteachas €19m sin agus méadú 34% ar an gcaiteachas iomlán a rinne comhlachtaí poiblí ar fhógraíocht i nGaeilge in 2023.

Ar thorthaí eile ba shuntasáí na Tuarascála bhí gur caitheadh €5.2m ar fhógraíocht ar na meáin Ghaeilge in 2024, arb ionann é sin agus méadú 37% ar an mbliain 2023. Cuimsíodh gníomhaíochtaí fógraíochta 397 comhlacht poiblí san iniúchadh do 2024. D'éirigh leis na 397 comhlachta poiblí trí chéile na tairsí reachtúla 5% de chaiteachas an bhuiséid bhliantúil fógraíochta a chaitheamh ar na meáin Ghaeilge a bhaint amach, ar an meán, agus 20% dá bhfógraíocht iomlán a dhéanamh i nGaeilge ar mheáin Bhéarla agus Ghaeilge trí chéile.

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in conjunction with third parties. The Returning Officers are independent in the performance of their duties under the Electoral Act 1992 and are not currently prescribed as public bodies under the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended. Returning officers play a critical role in respect of the fundamental and constitutional rights of citizens to participate in the exercise of democracy.

I have raised the matter of prescribing Returning Officers under language legislation with the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, considering the deficits mentioned above in the provision of services for the Irish language community. Other statutory office holders have previously been prescribed on the schedule of public bodies to the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended. There are also precedents in other legislation in Ireland where a person or statutory office holder is deemed a public body.

Irish Language Advertising by Public Bodies

Public bodies have an obligation under section 10A (Advertising by Public Bodies) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, to place a proportion of their advertising in Irish each year. A report published by my Office at Oireachtas na Samhna in Belfast in November 2025 indicated that public bodies spent €19m on Irish language advertising in 2024. This €19m expenditure represents a 34% increase on the total expenditure by public bodies on advertising in the Irish language in 2023.

Other significant findings of the Report were that €5.2m was spent on Irish-language advertising in 2024, representing a 37% increase from 2023. The 2024 audit comprised advertising activities for 397 public bodies. Overall, the 397 public bodies met the statutory requirement of spending at least 5% of their annual advertising budget on Irish-language media, with an average of 20% of their total advertising expenditure allocated to both English-language and Irish-language media.

Tháinig méadú 32% ar an méid airgid a caitheadh ar fhógraíocht i nGaeilge ar na meáin Bhéarla freisin, ó €10.4m in 2023 go €13.7m in 2024. Ábhar misnigh i dtreisiú chearta teanga Phobal na Gaeilge an méadú nach mór €5 mhilliúin a tháinig ar chaiteachas ar fhógraíocht i nGaeilge in 2024, i gcomparáid le 2023. Is tuar dóchais é an méadú ar láithreacht agus ar fheiceálacht na Gaeilge ar na meáin thraidisiúnta agus dhigiteacha nua do neartú na Gaeilge go náisiúnta. Tá m'Óifig ag leanúint leis an iniúchadh ar chomhlachtaí poiblí lena chinntiú go gcloíonn gach comhlacht poiblí leis an bhforáil um fhógraíocht i nGaeilge. Bhain beagnach aon trian, nó 166 de na 543 chás chomhairleacha san iomlán a láimhseáil m'Óifig ó Chomhlachtaí Poiblí in 2025, le halt 10A (Fógraíocht ag Comhlachtaí Poiblí). Léiríonn sé seo go bhfuil cearta teanga phobal na Gaeilge fite fuaite anois le hearnáil na fógraíochta tráchtála in Éirinn. Tá ról ríthábhachtach ag m'Óifig maidir leis na cearta teanga seo a chosaint trína chinntiú go n-úsáidtear an Ghaeilge mar is cuí sna fógraí.

Forbairtí Eagraíochtúla

Ceapadh Séamus Ó Coileáin ina Stiúrthóir Oifige i mí Mheán Fómhair 2025. Tá ról an-tábhachtach ag an Stiúrthóir gnóthaí na hOifige a bhainistiú agus comhairle a chur ar an gCoimisinéir Teanga. Táim buíoch don Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta Dara Calleary, do Rúnaí na Roinne Mary Hurley agus do Rúnaí Cúnta Rannóg na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta, an Dr. Aodhán Mac Cormaic as a gcuid tacaíochta ar mhaithe le buiséad agus líon foirne na hOifige a mhéadú. Tá allúntas foirne 19 nduine dhéag ag an Oifig anois cé go bhfuil roinnt folúntas le líonadh go fóill.

The amount spent on advertising in Irish- and English-language media also increased by 32%, from €10.4m in 2023 to €13.7m in 2024. Encouragingly, the almost €5 million increase in spending on advertising in the Irish language in 2024, compared to 2023, has strengthened the language rights of the Irish Language Community. The increase in the presence and prominence of Irish in traditional and digital media is promising for strengthening the Irish language nationally. My Office is continuing to audit public bodies to ensure that each individual public body adheres to the provision for advertising in Irish. Almost a third, or 166 of the total 543 advisory cases handled by my Office for the Public and Public Bodies in 2025, concerned section 10A (Advertising by Public Bodies). This indicates that the language rights of the Irish-speaking community are now intertwined with the commercial advertising sector in Ireland. My Office plays a vital role in safeguarding these language rights by ensuring that the Irish language is used correctly.

Organisational Developments

Séamus Ó Coileáin was appointed as Director in September 2025. The Director has a very important role in managing the affairs of the Office and advising An Coimisinéir Teanga. I thank the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht Dara Calleary, the Secretary of the Department Mary Hurley and the Assistant Secretary of the Irish Language and Gaeltacht Section, Dr. Aodhán Mac Cormaic for their support in increasing the Office's budget and staff numbers. The Office now has a staff allocation of 19, although a number of vacancies remain unfilled.



SEIRBHÍSÍ EOLAIS AGUS CUMARSÁIDE

Tá an pobal a choinneáil ar an eolas faoina gcearta teanga agus comhlachtaí poiblí a choinneáil ar an eolas faoina ndualgais faoin reachtaíocht teanga ar cheann de dhualgais lárnacha m'Oifige.

Leanadh den obair seo i rith 2025, bliain ar leanadh de chuid mhór den athrú reachtaíochta agus den éileamh ón bpobal ar sheirbhísí níos comhsheasmhaí i nGaeilge. Tugtar faoi na dualgais seo ar shlite éagsúla.

Ar an bhformhór, tagann comhlachtaí poiblí chugainn ag lorg eolais agus comhairle faoin reachtaíocht teanga agus faoi chur i bhfeidhm na reachtaíochta. Is dea-chomhartha é seo ar an gcaidreamh atá idir m'Oifig agus comhlachtaí poiblí trí chéile a léiríonn go bhfuil meas acu ar an Oifig agus ar an reachtaíocht araon.

I gcaitheamh na bliana 2025, thug m'Oifig comhairle do chomhlachtaí poiblí ar gach gné d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe.

Roinntear eolas le comhlachtaí poiblí ar shlite éagsúla:

- Tugtar freagraí ar theachtaireachtaí ríomhphoist ina mbíonn ceisteanna sainiúla.
- Tugtar treoir agus freagraí ábhartha ar an nguthán más gá ach leantar an gnás seo le teachtaireacht ríomhphoist lena dheimhniú go bhfuil taifead i gcló ar an gcomhairle a roinntear.
- Déantar cur i láthair, ar iarratas, ina dtugtar léargas iomlánach ar na dualgais a leagtar amach sa reachtaíocht. A mhínicí ná a mhalairt, cuirtear na cuir i láthair in oiriúint do na comhlachtaí poiblí – saincheisteanna ó bhaill foirne an chomhlachta, dualgais Scéimeanna Teanga agus araile san áireamh.
- Glacann m'Oifig páirt go tráthrialta i seimineáir a eagraíonn ranna stáit agus eagraíochtaí ionadaíocha ina gcuirtear ról na hOifige agus dualgais na gcomhlachtaí poiblí in iúl.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Keeping the public informed of their language rights and public bodies informed of their obligations under language legislation, is one of the main functions of my Office.

This work continued during 2025, a year in which legislative change and public demand for more consistent services in Irish continued. These functions are performed in different ways.

Mostly, public bodies come to us seeking information and advice about the language legislation and its implementation. This is a good indication of the relationship between my Office and public bodies as a whole which shows that they respect both the Office and the legislation.

During 2025, my Office provided advice to public bodies on all aspects of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended.

Information is shared with public bodies in various ways:

- Replies to email messages containing specific questions.
- Relevant advice and answers are provided by telephone if necessary but this procedure is followed by an email message to confirm that a written record of the advice is shared.
- Presentations are made, on request, giving an overview of the duties set out in the legislation. More often than not, the presentations are tailored to suit the public bodies – specific questions from the body's staff, obligations of Language schemes ect.
- My Office regularly participates in seminars organised by state departments and representative organisations articulating the role of the Office and the duties of public bodies.

- Tá raon leathan acmhainní eolais ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na hOifige freisin don phobal agus do chomhlachtaí poiblí trí chéile. Beidh acmhainní breise á bhforbairt ag m’Oifig ar mhaithe le feachtas a chothú i measc an phobail ar na forála nua reachtaíochta atá le tabhairt i bhfeidhm go fóill.

Comhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus Phobal Labhartha na Gaeilge

I Mí Iúil 2025, fuair mé cuireadh ón gComhchoiste labhairt leo faoi na téamaí: ‘Tuarascáil Bhliantúil an Choimisinéara Teanga 2024, agus Tiomantas an Rialtais go mbeidh 20% de Sheirbhísigh Phoiblí ina nOifigigh Dhátheangacha, agus na Caighdeáin a bheidh de dhíth agus Seirbhísí Dhátheangacha á gcur ar fáil don Phobal’. Leag mé béim i m’aitheasc ar an dá chrann taca is tábhachtaí d’fheidhmiú an Phlean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge agus do láidriú cearta teanga sna blianta beaga amach romhainn, is iad sin an fhoráil go mbeidh inniúlacht sa Ghaeilge ag 20% den fhoireann a earcófar chuig comhlachtaí poiblí agus córas na gcaighdeán teanga trína leagfar dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí seirbhísí poiblí nua a sholáthar trí mheán na Gaeilge. Leag mé béim ar an ngéar-riachtanas go dtabharfaí faoi phleanáil fórsa saothair d’fhoireann atá inniúil i nGaeilge ar bhonn córasach go náisiúnta. Beidh sé riachtanach go dtabharfaidh an phleanáil fórsa saothair sin scála, scóip agus éagsúlacht na seirbhíse poiblí san áireamh. Tá breis agus 500 comhlacht poiblí forordaithe faoin reachtaíocht teanga agus léiríonn figiúirí a d’fhoilsigh an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, Sheachadadh an Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta agus Athchóirithe in 2024 go raibh 397,121 duine fostaíthe sa tseirbhís poiblí ag deireadh ráithe 4 in 2023 agus gur tháinig méadú de bhreis agus 13,000 fostaí ar an meán in aghaidh na bliana ar fhoireann na seirbhíse poiblí idir 2018 agus 2023.

I bhfianaise scála agus scóip na hidirbheartaíochta atá ag teastáil le dóthain foirne atá inniúil i nGaeilge a earcú ar bhonn náisiúnta, d’áitigh mé don Chomhchoiste go dteastódh aonad comhordúcháin agus tuairiscithe straitéise a shonrú nó a bhunú le tacú leis an gCoiste Comhairleach um Sheirbhísí Gaeilge maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar earcú foirne atá inniúil i nGaeilge ar bhonn córasach ar fud na seirbhíse poiblí. D’fhéadfadh leis cúnamh a iarraidh ar na rannáin um Sheachadadh Claochlaithe

- A wide range of information resources are also available on the Office’s website for the general public and public bodies. My Office will be developing additional resources to raise public awareness of the new legislative provisions yet to be implemented.

Joint Committee on the Irish language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community

In July 2025, I received an invitation from the Joint Committee to speak about the themes: ‘An Coimisinéir Teanga’s Annual Report for 2024, and the Government’s Commitment that 20% of Public Servants will be bilingual, and the Standards that will be required when providing Bilingual Services to the Public’. I highlighted in my address the two most important pillars for the implementation of the National Plan for Irish Language Public Services and for the strengthening of language rights in the next few years, namely the provision that 20% of staff recruited to public bodies will have competence in Irish and the system of language standards whereby public bodies will be obliged to provide new public services through the medium of Irish. I emphasised the urgent need for workforce planning for Irish-language proficient staff to be undertaken on a systematic basis nationally. It will be essential that such workforce planning takes into account the scale, scope and diversity of public service. Over 500 public bodies are prescribed under the language legislation and figures published by the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform in 2024 show that 397,121 people were employed in the public service at the end of quarter 4 in 2023 and that public service staff increased by an average of over 13,000 employees per year between 2018 and 2023.

Given the scale and scope of the actions required to recruit sufficient numbers of Irish-language proficient staff on a national basis, I impressed on the Joint Committee the need to establish a strategy coordination and reporting unit to support the Irish Language Services Advisory Committee in guiding the recruitment of staff proficient in Irish on a systematic basis across the public service.

Seirbhíse Poiblí um Fhórsa Saothair sa Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, Bonneagair, Athchóiriúcháin na Seirbhíse Poiblí agus Digitiúcháin mar go bhfuil na rannáin sin i mbun pleanála fórsa saothair agus pleanála straitéisí don tSeirbhís Phoiblí thar ceann an Stáit cheana féin.

Mura ndéanfar comhordú, tomhas agus tuairisciú ar bhonn leanúnach ar fud na seirbhíse poiblí ar fheidhmiú an chrainn taca seo den Phlean Naisiúnta tá riosca mór ann, a d'áitigh mé don Chomhchoiste, nach n-éireoidh leis an Stát a chuid dualgas reachtúil maidir leis an bhforáil 20% d'earcaigh atá inniúil i nGaeilge a fhíorú.

Comhairle don Phobal agus do Chomhlachtaí Poiblí

Láimhseáil m'Oifig 543 cás comhairleach do chomhlachtaí poiblí agus don Phobal i gcaitheamh 2025. Bhain beagnach an tríú cuid de na cásanna le comhairle ar alt 10A (Fógraíocht ag Comhlachtaí Poiblí). Léiríonn an líon cásanna an t-ualach oibre a bhaineann le feidhmiú na forála fógraíochta i nGaeilge don Oifig. Tá miondealú i dTábla 3 ar na cásanna comhairleacha a láimhseáil m'Oifig de réir forála reachtúla in 2025.

It may request the assistance of the Public Service Transformation Delivery Unit and Workforce divisions in the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation as these divisions are already undertaking workforce and strategic planning for the Public Service on behalf of the State.

Failure to coordinate, measure and report on an ongoing basis across the public service on the implementation of this pillar of the National Plan poses a major risk, I argued to the Joint Committee, that the State will not succeed in its statutory obligations of realising the 20% provision for Irish-language proficient recruits.

Advice provided to the Public and Public Bodies

My Office handled 543 advisory cases to public bodies and the Public during 2025. Almost a third of the advisory cases related to section 10A (Advertising by Public Bodies). The number of cases reflects the Office's workload in implementing the provision for advertising in Irish. Table 3 below presents the breakdown of advisory cases handled by my Office in 2025 according to statutory provisions.



Cuairt ateangairí ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gCoimisiún Eorpach ar Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga i mí Lúnasa 2025
A visit by a delegation of interpreters from the European Parliament and the European Commission to Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga in August 2025

Tábla 3: Cásanna Comhairleacha don Phobal agus do Chomhlachtaí Poiblí 2025

Cineál	Líon na gCásanna	%
Ilghnéitheach	195	35.9%
Alt 10A Fógraíocht	166	30.6%
Alt 9(1) Rialacháin - Comharthaíochta, stáiseanóireachta agus fógraí taifeadta béil	46	8.5%
Ailt 9C & 9D - Lógónna	26	4.8%
Alt 11 - Scéimeanna	20	3.7%
Alt 10 - Foilseacháin	17	3.1%
9E - Seirbhísí tríú páirtí	14	2.6%
19A - Caighdeán Teanga	11	2.0%
Alt 9 (2) - Cumarsáid an phobail le comhlacht poiblí	8	1.5%
Alt 9A - Ainmneacha, seoltaí, teidil	8	1.5%
Alt 4B - Comhlíontacht Chorporáideach	8	1.5%
Alt 9(3) - Cumarsáid comhlachta phoiblí leis an bpobal	7	1.3%
Ailt 32/33 - Logainmneacha	5	0.9%
Lámhleabhar do Chomharthaí Tráchta	3	0.6%
Alt 18C - Earcaíocht 20%	3	0.6%
Alt 18E - Seirbhísí poiblí sa Gaeltacht	2	0.4%
Alt 21 (F) - Achtacháin eile a bhaineann le Gaeilge	2	0.4%
Alt 9B - Foirmeacha Oifigiúla	1	0.2%
Alt 7 - Foilsiú reachtaíochta sa dhá theanga oifigiúla	1	0.2%

Fógraíocht ag Comhlachtaí Poiblí – Alt 10A

Bhí Alt 10A fós ar cheann de na hait ba rathúla den Acht Leasaithe in 2025. Léirigh an t-osradharc is déanaí ar ghníomhaíochtaí fógraíochta na gcomhlachtaí poiblí, gur comhlíonadh, ar an meán, an dá thairseach – 20% i méid na fógraíochta a rinneadh agus 5% den chaiteachas ar mheán Gaeilge.

Table 3: Advisory Cases to the Public and Public Bodies 2025

Type	No. of cases	%
Miscellaneous	195	35.9%
Section 10A Advertising	166	30.6%
Section 9(1) Regulations - Signage, stationery and recorded oral announcements	46	8.5%
Sections 9C & 9D - Logos	26	4.8%
Section 11- Schemes	20	3.7%
Section 10 - Publications	17	3.1%
9E - Third party services	14	2.6%
19A - Language Standards	11	2.0%
Section 9(2) - Public communication with a public body	8	1.5%
Section 9A - Names, addresses, titles	8	1.5%
Section 4B - Corporate Compliance	8	1.5%
Section 9(3) - Public body communication with the public	7	1.3%
Sections 32/33 - Placenames	5	0.9%
Traffic Signs Manual	3	0.6%
Section 18C - 20% Recruitment	3	0.6%
Section 18E - Public services in the Gaeltacht	2	0.4%
Section 21 (f) - Other enactments relating to Irish	2	0.4%
Section 9B - Official Forms	1	0.2%
Section 7 - Publication of legislation in both official languages	1	0.2%

Advertising by Public Bodies – Section 10A

Section 10A remained one of the most successful sections of the Amended Act in 2025. The latest overview of public bodies' advertising activities showed that, on average, both thresholds were met – 20% in the amount of advertising made and 5% of expenditure on Irish language media.

Ar na buaicphointí fógraíochta a baineadh amach in 2024, bhí caiteachas €19m ar fhograí i nGaeilge, ar bhain €5.2m den tsuim sin le fograíocht a dhéanamh ar na meáin Ghaeilge.

Léiríonn na suimeanna seo go bhfuil comhlachtaí poiblí, trí chéile, ag déanamh iarrachta [macánta] a gcuid aschur fógraíochta a chur in oiriúint don fhoráil.

Tá líon agus caighdeán na bhfógraí iad féin feabhsaithe le bliain anuas. Tá líon agus caighdeán na meán Gaeilge araon treisithe go mór freisin ó tháinig Alt 10A chun cinn.

Cuairteoirí chun na hOifige

I measc na dtoscaireachtaí agus na gcuairteoirí a tháinig chuig an Oifig i gcaitheamh 2025 bhí:

- An tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, Dara Calleary, TD.
- Toscaireacht ó Pharlaimint na Polainne.
- Toscaireacht ó Pharlaimint na Fionnlaine & Ambasadóir na Fionnlaine chun na hÉireann.
- Toscaireacht ó phobal na Sorbach in oir-thuaisceart na Gearmáine.
- Ionadaíocht ateangairí ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gCoimisiún Eorpach.
- Toscaireacht ó Ghairscoil na bPíarsach, Ros Muc.
- Toscaireachtaí ó na heagrais náisiúnta agus uile-oileánda teangabhunaithe:
 - Foras na Gaeilge
 - Gaeloideachas
 - An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta
 - Cumann na n-Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge

Cumarsáid Sheachtrach

Tá teagmháil rialta ag m'Oifig lenár ngeallsealbhóirí éagsúla. Ar ndóigh, freastalaítear ar an bpobal ar chomhlachtaí poiblí lena chinntiú go bhfuil feasacht chruinn faoi reachtaíocht teanga á roinnt leo.

Advertising highlights in 2024 included expenditure of €19m on Irish-language advertising, of which €5.2m was spent on Irish-language media advertising.

These figures show that public bodies are, by and large, making a [frank] effort to adapt their advertising outputs to the provision.

The number and quality of advertisements themselves have improved over the past year. Both the number and quality of Irish language media have also been greatly enhanced since the implementation of Section 10A.

Visitors to the Office

Delegations and visitors to the Office during 2025 included:

- Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary, TD.
- Delegation from the Polish Parliament.
- Delegation from the Finnish Parliament & Finnish Ambassador to Ireland.
- Delegation from the Sorbian community in north-eastern Germany.
- Delegation of interpreters from the European Parliament and European Commission.
- Delegation from Gairscoil na bPíarsach, Ros Muc.
- Delegations from national and all-island language-based organisations:
 - Foras na Gaeilge
 - Gaeloideachas
 - An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta
 - Association of Irish Language Development Officers

External Communication

My Office has regular contact with our various stakeholders. The public and public bodies are engaged with to ensure that accurate awareness about language legislation is shared with them.

Déantar é seo ar bhealaí éagsúla: iarratais ó chomhlachtaí poiblí, iarratas ó ghrúpaí ionadaíocha agus iarratais ón bpobal. Déantar cur i láthair a údarú go saineúil don ócáid, de ghnáth, agus cuirtear cúinsí agus ábhar éagsúla inspéise i láthair mar is cuí. Dá réir sin, is féidir na dualgais atá comónta don chomhlacht poiblí móide gealltanais scéimeanna teanga, mar is cuí, a chur san áireamh. Más gá, agus más oiriúnach, cuirtear gearáin faoin gcomhlacht poiblí san áireamh.

I measc na gcur i láthair a rinneadh in 2025, bhí:

- Comhlachtaí Poiblí
 - Boird Oiliúna agus Oideachais Éireann
 - Foras na Gaeilge
 - An Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachais Speisialta
 - Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna an Lú agus na Mí
 - Oifig an Ombudsman do Leanáí
 - An Bord um Chúnamh Dlíthiúil
 - An Garda Síochána
 - An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil
 - Met Éireann
 - Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
 - Bhí na seisiúin seo eisceachtúil mar gur iarr Oifigeach Gaeilge na Comhairle ar OCT ionadaí foirne a chur chuig Dún na nGall le 3 chur i láthair a dhéanamh in oifigí éagsúla na comhairle: Leifear, An Clochán Liath agus Leitir Ceanainn chomh maith le seisiún ar líne.
 - Coiste Comhairleach don Ghaeilge – Foras na Gaeilge & Coimisiún na Meán
- Comhlachtaí/eagraíochtaí eile
 - Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn
 - Toscaireacht ó phobal na Sorbach
 - Cumann Dlí na hÉireann
 - Tugtar cur i láthair do na grúpaí mic léinn ar fad – oiread agus 4 huair in aghaidh na bliana.
 - Ionadaíocht ateangairí ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gCoimisiún Eorpach
 - Toscaireacht ó Pharlaimint na Polainne
 - Toscaireacht ó Pharlaimint na Fionnlaine
 - IBEC
 - Bhí níos mó ná 1,000 toscaire i láthair ag an gcur i láthair seo.
 - Limistéar Pleanála Teanga Chonamara Láir

This is done in a variety of ways: requests from public bodies, requests from representative groups and requests from the public. Typically a presentation is specifically tailored for the occasion and a variety of circumstances and material of interest are presented as appropriate. Accordingly, obligations common to the public body as well as commitments of language schemes, as appropriate, can be taken into account. If necessary, and if appropriate, complaints about the public body are taken into account.

Presentations in 2025 included:

- Public Bodies
 - Education and Training Boards Ireland
 - Foras na Gaeilge
 - National Council for Special Education
 - Louth and Meath Education and Training Board
 - Office of the Ombudsman for Children
 - Legal Aid Board
 - An Garda Síochána
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Met Éireann
 - Donegal County Council
 - These sessions were exceptional as the Council's Irish Language Officer asked OCT to send a staff representative to Donegal to make 3 presentations in the council's various offices: Lifford, An Clochán Liath and Letterkenny as well as an online session.
 - Irish Language Advisory Committee – Foras na Gaeilge & Coimisiún na Meán
- Other bodies/organisations
 - Union of Students in Ireland
 - Delegation from the Sorbian community
 - Law Society of Ireland
 - Presentations are given to all student groups – up to 4 times per year.
 - Delegation of interpreters from the European Parliament and the European Commission
 - Delegation from the Polish Parliament
 - Delegation from the Finnish Parliament
 - IBEC
 - More than 1,000 delegates attended this presentation.
 - Conamara Láir Language Planning Area

D'fhreastail ionadaithe ó m'Óifig ar iliomad ócáidí agus léirithe ar fud na bliana, inar cuireadh feachtas ar chearta teanga chun cinn agus ar tugadh faisnéis dea-chleachtais ó dhlínsí eile abhaile leo. I measc na n-imeachtaí ag a raibh ionadaíocht ó m'Óifig bhí:

- "St Patrick & St David Dialogue" – faoi choimirce Rialtas na Breataine Bige
- Seoladh "Tonnta" – Gaillimh le Gaeilge
- "Comhghael" – Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn
- Aonach Gairme Choláiste na Tríonóide
- Aonach Gairme Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
- Seimineár IALC ar líne
- Fóram Feasa an Aontais Eorpaigh
- Lón Gnó Gaillimh le Gaeilge
- Fóram na Meán Cumarsáide Gaeilge – UCD
- Foras na Gaeilge
- Gradaim na Gaeltachta
- Comhdháil Chumann na nOmbudsmán, i mBéal Feirste
- "Luach na Gaeilge" – OPT Charna
- Oireachtas na Gaeilge
- Seimineár IBEC ar líne
- Tionól Gaeloideachas

Ionadaíocht Náisiúnta agus Idirnáisiúnta

Leanadh de ról ghníomhach m'Óifige i gCumann Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga (CICT). Tá sé mar aidhm ag an gCumann feachtas ar obair na gCoimisinéirí Teanga ar fud na cruinne a threisiú agus dea-chleachtais a roinnt idir Oifigí na gCoimisinéirí Teanga ar mhaithe le láidriú cearta teanga sna dlínsí éagsúla. Tá Cathaoirleacht an Chumainn ag m'Óifig i láthair na huaire. Beidh an 9ú Comhdháil idirnáisiúnta á reáchtáil i gCathair na Gaillimhe an Fómhar seo chugainn. Tá clár cuimsitheach imeachtaí agus gnóthaí comhdhála á leagan amach san am i láthair.

Representatives from my Office attended numerous events and presentations throughout the year, promoting language rights awareness and bringing home best practice information from other jurisdictions. Events represented by my Office included:

- "St Patrick & St David Dialogue" – under the auspices of the Welsh Government
- Launch of "Tonnta" – Gaillimh le Gaeilge
- "Comhghael" – Union of Students in Ireland
- Trinity College Careers Fair
- University of Galway Careers Fair
- IALC online seminar
- European Union's Fóram Feasa (Awareness Forum)
- Gaillimh le Gaeilge Business Lunch
- Irish Language Media Forum – UCD
- Foras na Gaeilge
- Gradaim na Gaeltachta (Gaeltacht awards)
- Ombudsman Association Conference, in Belfast
- "Value of Irish" – Carna OPT
- Oireachtas na Gaeilge
- IBEC online seminar
- Gaeloideachas Conference

National and International Representation

My Office continued to play an active role in the International Association of Language Commissioners (IALC). The Association aims to reinforce awareness of the work of Language Commissioners worldwide and to share best practices between Language Commissioner Offices in order to strengthen language rights in the various jurisdictions. My Office currently holds the Chair of the Association. The 9th international Conference will be held in Galway City next Autumn. A comprehensive programme of conference events and work is currently being set out.

D'fhreastail baill foirne ón Oifig ar Chomhdháil Bhliantúil Chumann na nOmbudman i mBéal Feirste. Is ócáid thábhachtach í seo le ról na hOifige a neartú agus leis an bhfaisnéis is déanaí a fháil ó Oifigí eile Ombudsman agus a roinnt leo.

I mí na Nollag 2025 ar chuireadh ón gCoiste Cultúir, Cumarsáide, Breatnaise, Spóirt, agus Caidrimh Idirnáisiúnta Senedd Cymru thug mé aitheasc ar thábhacht an chomhoibrithe idir Éire agus an Bhreatain Bheag ar mhaithe le cearta teanga ár dteangacha dúchasacha a láidriú sa dá thír. Reachtáladh an seisiún mar chuid d'athbhreithniú Rialtas na Breataine Bige ar Chomh-Ráiteas na hÉireann - na Breataine Bige 2030. Leag mé béim ar an gcomhoibriú láidir atá idir a Oifig agus Oifig Choimisinéir na Breatnaise agus ar na deiseanna atá ag an dá thír feasacht agus dea-chleachtais a roinnt ar mhaithe le cearta na bpobail teanga sa dá dhlínsa a láidriú. Agus é ar na bacáin córas na gcaighdeán teanga a thabhairt i bhfeidhm anseo in Éirinn beidh go leor le foghlaim ó dhlínsa na Breataine Bige mar go bhfuil na caighdeán teanga i bhfeidhm ansin le 10 mbliana agus tionchar thar a bheith dearfach tar éis a bheith acu ar sheirbhísí poiblí i mBreatnais a fheabhsú.

Staff from the Office attended the Annual Conference of the Ombudsman Association in Belfast. This is an important occasion to strengthen the role of the Office and to receive and share with other Ombudsman Offices the latest information.

In December 2025, at the invitation of the Committee on Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Senedd Cymru, I highlighted the importance of cooperation between Ireland and Wales in strengthening the indigenous language rights of both countries. The session was part of the Welsh Government's review of the Ireland-Wales Shared Statement 2030. I emphasised the strong collaboration between his Office and the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office, as well as the opportunities to promote awareness and best practices to improve the rights of language communities in both jurisdictions. As Ireland prepares to introduce its Irish language standards system, there are important lessons to learn from the Welsh experience, where language standards have been in place for 10 years and have significantly enhanced public services in Welsh.



An Coimisinéir Teanga i mbun aithisc do Choiste Cultúir, Cumarsáide, Breatnaise, Spóirt, agus Caidrimh Idirnáisiúnta Senedd Cymru

An Coimisinéir Teanga addressing the Committee on Culture, Communication, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Senedd Cymru



GEARÁIN

Fuair an Oifig 580 gearán in 2025. Mar atá le feiceáil ó Thábla 4 thíos tá an líon gearán sin sa raon céanna le líon na ngearán le cúig bliana anuas cé is moite de 2021, nuair a tháinig méadú suntasach ar líon na ngearán de thoradh easpa seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge le linn phaindéime COVID-19.

Tábla 4

Bliain	Líon na nGearán
2021	727
2022	600
2023	634
2024	594
2025	580

Tá líon na ngearán a fuarthas in 2025 ag teacht leis na blianta roimhe sin a bheag nó a mhór. Is díol suntais é gur geallúintí faoi Scéimeanna Teanga agus sárú ar Alt 9(1) iad an dá chatagóir ba mhó ar bhain gearáin leo in 2025. Is é a fhoráiltear dó le hAlt 9(1):

Féadfaidh an tAire, le rialacháin, a fhoráil gur i nGaeilge, nó i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge, a mhéid a bheidh sonraithe, a bheidh fógartí béil (cibé acu beo nó taifeadta) arna ndéanamh ag comhlacht poiblí, ceannteidil stáiseanóireachta a úsáideann comhlacht poiblí agus ábhar agus leagan amach aon chomharthaí nó fógrán dá chuid agus féadfar forálacha éagsúla a dhéanamh i ndáil le haicmí éagsúla comhlachta, fógartí béil, stáiseanóireachta, comharthaí nó fógrán.

Mar a léirítear i dTábla 5 thíos, bhain um leath na ngearán (26.8% & 31.0% faoi seach) ina n-iomláine a fuair m’Oifig in 2025 le forálacha faoi fho-alt 9(1) d’Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 [Na Rialacháin um Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 (alt 9) 2008 (I.R. Uimh. 391 de 2008)], agus le córas na scéimeanna teanga. Tá Aire na Gaeltachta tar éis scéimeanna teanga a dhaingniú le isteach agus amach le 140 comhlacht poiblí thar na blianta.

COMPLAINTS

The Office received 580 complaints in 2025. As Table 4 below shows, this is in keeping with the number of complaints over the past five years with the exception of 2021, when the number of complaints increased significantly due to the lack of public services through Irish during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 4

Year	Number of Complaints
2021	727
2022	600
2023	634
2024	594
2025	580

The number of complaints received in 2025 is broadly in line with previous years. It is noteworthy that the Language Schemes and Section 9(1) categories received the most complaints again in 2025. Section 9(1) provides:

The Minister may by regulations provide that oral announcements (whether live or recorded) made by a public body, the headings of stationery used by a public body and the contents and the lay-out of any signage or advertisements placed by it shall, to such extent as may be specified, be in the Irish language or in the English and Irish languages and different provisions may be made in relation to different classes of body, oral announcements, stationery, signage or advertisements.

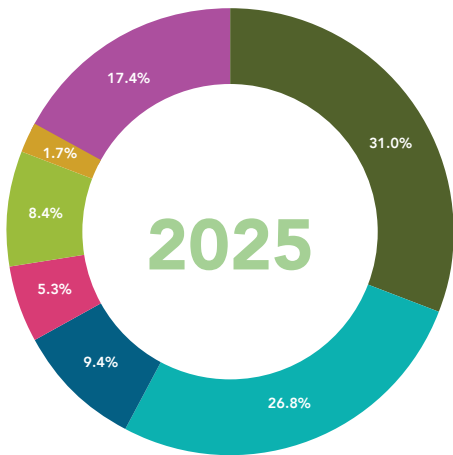
As shown in Table 5 below, over half of all complaints (26.8% & 31.0% respectively) received by my Office in 2025 related to provisions under 9(1) of the Official Languages Act 2003 [Official Languages Act, 2003 (section 9) Regulations 2008 (SI No. 391 of 2008)] and to the system of language schemes. The Minister for the Gaeltacht has ratified language schemes in respect of approximately 140 public bodies over the years. These are public bodies that provide extensive and

Comhlachtaí poiblí iad seo a chuireann seirbhísí poiblí forleathana agus tábhachtacha ar fáil don phobal agus dá réir ar chóir dualgas a leagan orthu seirbhísí poiblí ar leith a sholáthar i nGaeilge, sa bhreis ar na seirbhísí a leag forálacha díreacha Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 orthu.

important public services to the public and should be required, accordingly, to provide specific public services in Irish, in addition to the services they are obliged to provide by direct provisions of the Official Languages Act 2003.

Tábla 5
Miondealú (%) ar líon na ngearán do 2025 de réir catagóire

Table 5
Breakdown (%) of complaints for 2025 by category



	2024	2025
Foráil scéime teanga (san áireamh seirbhísí ar líne, cártaí aitheantais, suíomhanna gréasáin agus foirmeacha) Language scheme provision (including online services, identity cards, websites and forms)	36.9%	31.0%
Comharthaíocht & stáiseanóireacht neamhghéilliúil Non-compliant signage and stationery	23.9%	26.8%
Freagraí i mBéarla ar chumarsáid i nGaeilge Replies in English to correspondence in Irish	12.1%	9.4%
Easpa Gaeilge ar chomharthaí bóthair Lack of Irish on road signs	5.1%	5.3%
Fadhb le hainm agus/nó seoladh a úsáid i nGaeilge Problem with use of name and/or address in Irish	4.2%	8.4%
Alt 10A. Fógraíocht Section 10A. Advertising	3.0%	1.7%
Eile (cúiseanna éagsúla) Other (various issues)	14.8%	17.4%
Iomlán Total	100%	100%

Léiríonn líon agus cineál na ngearán a bhaineann le córas na scéimeanna teanga in 2025 go bhfuil sé níos práinní anois ná riamh go dtabharfaí caighdeáin teanga nua i bhfeidhm gan mhoill a rachaidh i ngleic leis na bearnaí follasacha atá i seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge de thoradh laigí chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga. Nuair a chuirtear san áireamh gur bhain beagnach dhá ghearán as chuile chúig ghearán le Ranna Rialtais agus le hÚdaráis Áitiúla feictear an géar-riachtanas atá ann go ndíreoidh na caighdeáin teanga tosaigh a fhorodóidh Aire na Gaeltachta ar na seirbhísí poiblí breise ba chóir do na fo-earnálacha sin a sholáthar i nGaeilge, e.g. córais idirghníomhacha agus seirbhísí ar líne, seirbhísí teileafóin, deasc fáiltithe etc.

The number and nature of complaints relating to the system of language schemes in 2025 demonstrate that it is now more urgent than ever that new language standards be implemented without delay to address the obvious gaps in public services in Irish resulting from the weaknesses of the Language Schemes system. When considering that almost two out of every five complaints related to Government Departments and Local Authorities, we see the urgent need for the initial language standards to be prescribed by the Minister for the Gaeltacht to focus on the additional public services that these sub-sectors should provide in Irish, e.g. interactive systems and online services, telephone services, reception desks etc.

Córas na Scéimeanna Teanga

Faoi alt 18(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, bhí dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí Scéimeanna Teanga a dhaingnigh Aire na Gaeltachta a chur i bhfeidhm. Faoi alt 9 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021, forordaítear Córas na gCaighdeán Teanga a theacht in áit Chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga. Cé gur tugadh tosach feidhme d'alt 9 (Córas na gCaighdeán Teanga) le hionstraim reachtúil I.R. Uimh. 90 de 2023 an 2 Márta 2023, níor tugadh lánfheidhm do chóras na gcaighdeán teanga sular éag an tréimhse uasta 3 bliana a leagadh síos san Acht leasaithe (2021) d'fhonn feidhm a thabhairt d'fhorálacha uile an Achta, ba é sin faoin 21 Nollaig 2024 óir thosaigh an tréimhse trí bliana ag rith an 21 Nollaig 2021 nuair a shínigh Uachtarán na hÉireann Micheál D. Ó hUiginn an tAcht leasaithe ina dhlí.

I measc na bhforálacha nár tugadh tosach feidhme dóibh laistigh den tréimhse uasta trí bliana ó achtaíodh an tAcht leasaithe i Mí na Nollag 2021, bhí alt 17. Is é alt 17 a aisghairm ar ailt 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 agus 18 den Phríomh-Acht (2003) a bhain le dréachtú, daingniú agus feidhmiú Scéimeanna Teanga. D'fhág sin gur aisghairmeadh gealltanais maidir le soláthar seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge faoi Chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga ach nár thug an tAire feidhm do Chóras na gCaighdeán Teanga a theacht ina n-áit.

Fuair m'Oifig 180 gearán ó bhaill den phobal in 2025 a bhain le heaspa seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge mar a gealladh i Scéimeanna Teanga. Is ionann an 180 gearán sin agus 31.0% den líon iomlán gearán a fuair m'Oifig in 2025. Laghdú suntasach é seo ó 36.9% in 2024. Léiríonn an laghdú sin an folús i gcearta teanga phobal na Gaeilge a chruthaigh aisghairm na Scéimeanna Teanga gan na Caighdeán Teanga a thabhairt i bhfeidhm ina n-áit.

D'fhiosraigh m'Oifig an 180 cás ar an mbonn gur bhain siad le socrúithe a bhí i bhfeidhm ag comhlachtaí poiblí i ngealltanais Scéimeanna Teanga i Mí na Nollag 2024, tráth a aisghairmeadh Córas na Scéimeanna Teanga. Anuas air seo, faoi alt 19A(5) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe, forordaítear nach mbeidh de thoradh ar thabhairt i bhfeidhm Chóras na gCaighdeán Teanga dualgas a bheith ar aon chomhlacht poiblí

The System of Language Schemes

Under section 18(1) of the Official Languages Act 2003, public bodies were obliged to implement Language Schemes ratified by the Minister for the Gaeltacht. Under section 9 of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, it is prescribed that a System of Language Standards replace the System of Language Schemes. Although section 9 (Language Standards System) was commenced by statutory instrument S.I. No. 90 of 2023 on 2 March 2023, the language standards system was not given full effect before the expiry of the maximum period of 3 years laid down in the amended Act (2021) for the commencement of all the provisions of the Act, by 21 December 2024, as the countdown to the three-year period began on 21 December 2021 when the President of Ireland, Micheál D. Ó hUiginn signed the amended Act into law.

Section 17 was included in provisions that were not statutorily commenced within three years of the amended Act's enactment in December 2021. Section 17 repeals sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the Principal Act (2003), which related to the drafting, ratification and implementation of Language Schemes. This meant that commitments to the provision of public services in Irish under the Language Schemes System were repealed, but the Minister did not replace them with the system of Language Standards.

My Office received 180 complaints from members of the public in 2025 relating to a lack of public services in Irish committed to in Language Schemes. These 180 complaints represent 31.0% of the total number of complaints received by my office in 2025. This is a noticeable decrease from 36.9% in 2024. This reduction reflects the vacuum in the language rights of the Irish-speaking community created by the repeal of the Language Schemes without the introduction of the Language Standards in their place.

My Office investigated the 180 cases on the basis that they related to arrangements in place by public bodies in Language Schemes commitments in December 2024, when the System of Language Schemes had been repealed. Also, according to section 19A(5) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, it is stated that using the System of Language Standards will mean that a public body offers

níos lú seirbhísí poiblí a sholáthar i nGaeilge ná mar a bhí faoi Chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga. De thoradh cinneadh Ard-Chúirte an 17 Nollag 2025 a thug le fios go raibh deireadh le Córas na Scéimeanna Teanga, mar atá le léiriú ó fheidhmiú alt 17 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasu), 2021, dearbhaíodh an folús ollmhór sa reachtaíocht teanga reatha maidir le dualgas a bheith ar chomhlachtaí poiblí seirbhísí poiblí criticiúla i nGaeilge a sholáthar. Cuimsíonn na seirbhísí sin, mar shampla, seirbhísí tacaíochta do chustaiméirí agus seirbhísí idirghníomhacha ar líne nach sonraítear sa mbun-acht féin, a sholáthar i nGaeilge.

Na daoine a rinne na gearáin seo, bhí comhlachtaí poiblí an stáit tar éis mainneachtain seirbhísí bunúsacha a chur ar fáil dóibh ionas go bhféadfaidís eolas tábhachtach a fháil ón stát agus gnó riachtanach, ar éileamh an stáit go minic, a dhéanamh leis an stát. Mar gheall ar an méid a luaitear thuas i dtaobh chinneadh bhreitheamh na hArd-Chúirte, níorbh fhéidir leis an Oifig seo idirghabháil a dhéanamh leis na comhlachtaí poiblí faoina ndearnadh gearáin agus sásamh a fháil don ghearánach ná a chinntiú go mbeadh córas i bhfeidhm ag na comhlachtaí poiblí sin a chinnteodh nach gceilfí seirbhísí agus cearta ar bhaill eile den phobal feasta. Bhí ar an Oifig, rud nach maífí uirthi, a chur in iúl do bhaill sin an phobail nárbh fhéidir linn cuidiú leo le hábhar gearáin a bhain le gealltanais scéime teanga i gcás gur tharla an mhainneachtain sin tar éis an dáta a luaitear thuas.

Tuigeadh don Oifig go raibh sé i gceist ag an Aire na dréachtchaighdeáin sin, a leagfadh oibleagáid ar chomhlachtaí poiblí na seirbhísí faoina ndearnadh gearáin a sholáthar, go raibh sé i gceist aige iad a fhoilsiú roimh dheireadh 2025 agus cuireadh in iúl do na gearánaithe sin gurbh amhlaidh a bhí agus go mbeadh deis acu páirt a ghlacadh sa chomhairliúchán poiblí a reáchtálfadh an Roinn sula dtabharfaí feidhm iomlán do na Caighdeáin Teanga.

Níor foilsíodh na dréachtchaighdeáin, faraor, faoi dheireadh 2025 agus tráth scríofa na tuarascála seo i ndeireadh na chéad ráithe de 2026, tá pobal na Gaeilge ag feitheamh go fóill ar fhoilsiú na ndr éachtchaighdeán sin gan aon tuairisc ar a bhfoilsiú le linn an dara ráithe. Fágann sé seo an Oifig agus pobal na Gaeilge san ainriocht céanna is a bhí le linn 2025.

at least as many public services in Irish as they did under the System of Language Schemes. A High Court decision on 17 December 2025 stated that the System of Language Schemes is no longer in effect, based on section 17 of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, which highlights a major shortcoming in current language laws in relation to public bodies' duty to offer important public services in Irish. These services include, for example, the provision of customer support services and interactive online services in the Irish language, services not specified in the primary act.

State public bodies had failed to provide the members of the public who made these complaints with basic services so that they could obtain important information from the state and conduct essential business, often at the request of the state. Due to the decision of the High Court judge mentioned above, this Office could not intervene with the public bodies about which complaints were made and therefore could not obtain redress for the complainant nor ensure that those public bodies had a system in place that would ensure that the services and rights of other members of the public would no longer be denied. The office regrettably informed the public that we could not assist with complaints about language scheme commitments that occurred after the mentioned date.

The office understood that the Minister intended to publish draft standards, which would place an obligation on public bodies to provide the services about which complaints were received, before the end of 2025, and complainants were informed of this and that they would have an opportunity to participate in the public consultation that the Department would hold before the Language Standards would be given full effect.

Unfortunately, the draft standards were not published by the end of 2025, and at the time of writing this report at the end of the first quarter of 2026, the Irish language community is still awaiting the publication of those draft standards with no expectation of their publication during the second quarter. This situation leaves both the office and the Irish language community in the same position as in 2025.

Alt 9 (1) – Comharthaí, Fógraí, Fógaí Taifeadta Béil, Stáiseanóireacht

Mar a léirítear thuas is é a fhoráiltear dó le hAlt 9(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla:

Féadfaidh an tAire, le rialacháin, a fhoráil gur i nGaeilge, nó i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge, a mhéid a bheidh sonraíthe, a bheidh fógaí béil (cibé acu beo nó taifeadta) arna ndéanamh ag comhlacht poiblí, ceanteidil stáiseanóireachta a úsáideann comhlacht poiblí agus ábhar agus leagan amach aon chomharthaí nó fógrán dá chuid agus féadfar forálacha éagsúla a dhéanamh i ndáil le haicmí éagsúla comhlachta, fógaí béil, stáiseanóireachta, comharthaí nó fógrán

Baineann sciar mór de na gearáin a fhaigheann m'Oifig, bliain i ndiaidh bliana, le halt 9(1) agus níorbh aon eisceacht í an bhliain 2025. Go deimhin féin, tháinig méadú ó 23.9% go 26.8% ar líon na ngearán a rinneadh faoin bhforáil seo.

Ó thaobh comharthaí de, is cúis imní é líon na gcomharthaí nua a chuirtear in airde a bhíonn míchruinn ó thaobh na Gaeilge de, nó nach bhfuil i gcomhréir leis na forálacha reachtúla, atá i bhfeidhm anois ón mbliain 2009. Bíonn m'Oifig breá sásta i gcónaí comhairle a thabhairt má chuirtear profaí comharthaíochta faoina bráid agus rinneadh amhlaidh anuraidh arís. Ní mór a lua, áfach, nach gcuireann an Oifig seirbhís phrofála ná aistriúcháin ar fáil agus gur chóir do chomhlachtaí poiblí a chinntiú go gcuirtear obair ar bith a dhéanann siad i nGaeilge faoi bhráid aistritheora nó eagarthóra ghairmiúil ach is féidir leis an Oifig, mar sin féin, súil a chaitheamh ar chomharthaí agus a thabhairt le fios cibé atá siad réidh le cur ar taispeáint nó nach bhfuil, ó thaobh na Gaeilge de agus i gcomhréir leis an reachtaíocht.

Is léir, áfach, nár mhór do chomhlachtaí poiblí cur chuige níos córasaí a chur i bhfeidhm, rud a dhearbhaíodh cáilíocht na gcomharthaí atá á gcur ar taispeáint acu. Is díol imní é a fháil amach, iar bhfiosrú don Oifig é, gurb ann do chomhlachtaí poiblí nach féidir leo córas deartha agus déanta comharthaí a chur ar fáil don Oifig ach a n-iarrtar a leithéid faoin gcóras neamhfhoirmiúil réitithe gearáin. Is deacair a shamhlú go bhfuiltear ag tionscnamh agus ag soláthar comharthaí ar bhealach ad hoc ar fud comhlachtaí poiblí.

Section 9 (1) – Signs, Advertisements, Recorded Oral Announcements, Stationery

As indicated above, Section 9(1) of the Official Languages Act provides:

The Minister may by regulations provide that oral announcements (whether live or recorded) made by a public body, the headings of stationery used by a public body and the contents and the lay-out of any signage or advertisements placed by it shall, to such extent as may be specified, be in the Irish language or in the English and Irish languages and different provisions may be made in relation to different classes of body, oral announcements, stationery, signage or advertisements.

Year on year, my office receives a large proportion of complaints related to section 9(1), and 2025 was no exception. Indeed, the number of complaints made under this provision increased from 23.9% to 26.8%.

In terms of signs, the number of new signs erected that are inaccurate in Irish or not in accordance with the statutory provisions now in place since 2009 is a cause for concern. My office is always happy to advise if signage proofs are submitted, as was done again last year. However, it must be mentioned that the office does not provide a proofreading or translation service and that public bodies should ensure that material in Irish is done or approved by a professional translator or editor. Nevertheless, the office can indicate whether signs are ready to be displayed or not, both from an Irish language perspective and in accordance with the legislation.

However, it is clear that public bodies need to apply a more systematic approach to ensure the quality of the signs they are displaying. It is worrying, having investigated the matter with certain public bodies, that they cannot provide the office signage design and completion system when requested to do so as part of the informal complaint resolution system. It is difficult to imagine that signs are being conceived and provided in an ad hoc manner across public bodies.

Cabhróidh forálacha 4B(a) agus 4B(b) (alt 3 na reachtaíochta leasaithe (2021)) le feasacht agus leis an rialachas corparáideach i dtaca le cearta teanga a threisiú. Leagtar freagracht i ndáil le tuairisciú ar bhall foirne sinsearach i ngach comhlacht poiblí anois, freagracht i dtaca le maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar fheidhmiú an Achta mar aon le tuairisc a thabhairt i dtuarascáil bhliantúil faoi chur chuige an chomhlachta phoiblí chun críoch géilliúlacht na reachtaíochta teanga. Láidreoidh na forálacha seo sícé rialachais na gcomhlachtaí poiblí maidir le feidhmiú na gceart teanga.

Alt 9(2) Freagra i mBéarla ar chumarsáid i nGaeilge

Bhí líon agus céatadán na ngearán i dtaca le freagraí i mBéarla a thabhairt ar chumarsáid i scríbhinn i nGaeilge measartha ard arís eile in 2025 i bhfianaise go bhfuil an fhoráil bhunaidh in alt 9(2) i bhfeidhm ó 2004. Feictear do bhaill an phobail a thionscnaíonn an chumarsáid i nGaeilge leis an gcomhlacht poiblí sna cásanna seo gur éagothroime é nach bhfreagraítear a gcumarsáid ina rogha teanga oifigiúla. Bhain sciar de na gearáin seo, freisin, le córais idirghníomhacha ar líne atá i bhfeidhm ag comhlacht poiblí, córais ina gcuirtear iallach ar bhaill an phobail in go leor cásanna Béarla a úsáid seachas a rogha teanga oifigiúla. Níor chuir na comhlachtaí poiblí malairt córais ar fáil chun an chumarsáid a éascú i rogha teanga oifigiúla an úsáideora seirbhíse. Tuairiscíodh an bhearna shuntasach seo i seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge i dtuarascálacha na hOifige seo sna blianta 2024, 2023 agus 2022 freisin. Fearacht na mbearnaí thuasluaite maidir le seirbhísí poiblí ar líne, is léiriú eile é an t-easnamh maidir le cumarsáid i rogha teanga an bhaill den phobal a thionscnaíonn cumarsáid ar a riachtanaí atá sé go dtabharfaí caighdeán teanga i bhfeidhm gan mhoill a leagfaidh dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí córais ar líne ar comhchaighdeán a sholáthar sa dá theanga oifigiúla.

Bhain sciar de na gearáin a fuarthas faoin bhforáil seo le foirmeacha iarratais i mBéarla a líon baill den phobal i nGaeilge cheal foirm iarratais i nGaeilge a bheith ar fáil. Is ann do na foirmeacha iarratais seo den chuid is mó chun a chur ar chumas bhaill an phobail seirbhís a éileamh ar an stát agus is minicí ná a mhalairt a éilíonn comhlachtaí poiblí thar ceann an stáit ar bhaill an phobail foirm iarratais a líonadh sular féidir leo seirbhís nó ceart a fáil ón stát.

The provisions of 4B(a) and 4B(b) (section 3 of the amended legislation (2021)) will help to reinforce awareness and corporate governance of language rights. A senior member of staff in each public body is now tasked with the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Act as well as reporting in an annual report on the public body's compliance with language legislation. These provisions will enhance the governance of public bodies by reinforcing their commitment to upholding language rights.

Section 9(2) Response in English to communication in Irish

In 2025, the number and percentage of complaints regarding English responses to written communications in Irish remained relatively high, given that the original provision in section 9(2) has been in place since 2004. Members of the public who initiate communication in Irish with the public body in these cases deem it unfair that their communication is not answered in their preferred language of choice. A proportion of these complaints also related to interactive online systems operated by a public body, where members of the public are often forced to use English rather than their preferred official language. The public bodies did not provide an alternative system to facilitate the communication in the service user's preferred language of choice. This significant gap in public services in Irish was also reported in this office's reports in 2024, 2023 and 2022. Like the above-mentioned gaps in relation to online public services, the shortfall in communication in the preferred language of the member of the public initiating communication is another indication of the need for language standards to be brought into force without delay, which will place an obligation on public bodies to provide online systems to an equal standard in both official languages.

Some complaints involved English application forms being filled out in Irish, due to a lack of Irish forms. These application forms mostly enable members of the public to avail of state services, which public bodies on behalf of the state often require members of the public to complete before they can obtain a service or right from the state.

Níor mhór na foirmeacha seo a bheith ar fáil go dátheangach ionas nach mbeadh pobal na Gaeilge faoi mhíbhuntáiste ná ar an ngannchuid agus cé gur tugadh feidhm d'fhoráil 9B a leagann dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí maidir le foirmeacha oifigiúla níor réalaíodh an fheidhm sin ina hiomláine fós ós rud é go gcaithfidh Aire na Gaeltachta treoirleánte a eisiúint a thabharfaidh lánfheidhm d'fhorálacha 9A go 9D. Ach an oiread le foilsiú na ndrucht-chaidheán teanga luaite thuas, tá easpa seo na dtreoirleánte ag déanamh faillí ar phobal na Gaeilge agus ar a gcearta teanga.

In ainneoin an méid seo thuas, áfach, is é léiriú na hOifige seo nach féidir bac a chur ar bhaill an phobail cumarsáid a dhéanamh leis an stát ina rogha teanga oifigiúla agus gur féidir le baill an phobail, i gcás nach ann do leagan Gaeilge d'fhoirmeacha oifigiúla, foirm oifigiúil i mBéarla a líonadh i nGaeilge agus gurb ionann an gníomh sin agus cumarsáid i scríbhinn i nGaeilge a thionscnamh le comhlacht poiblí. I gcás den sórt sin, tá dualgas ar an gcomhlacht poiblí an chumarsáid sin a fhreagairt sa teanga oifigiúil chéanna.

As measc na ngearán a fuarthas ar an ábhar seo i rith na bliana níor mhór don Choimisinéir Teanga imscrúdú a thionscnamh i gcásanna ar mhainnigh Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann déanamh de réir 9(1) i dtaca le foirmeacha iarratais. Tá achoimre ar an imscrúdú sin le fáil i gcaibidil na n-imscrúduithe.

Ainm/seoladh i nGaeilge

Bhain um 8.4% de na gearáin a fuarthas in 2025 le hainm agus seoladh bhaill an phobail a bheith míchruinn i nGaeilge nó á gclárú agus á n-úsáid i mBéarla i gcoinne thoil na ndaoine sin. B'ionann an líon sin gearán, go deimhin, agus dhá oiread an líon gearán a rinneadh faoin ábhar seo in 2024, mar a fheictear ó Thábla 5.

An chúis ba mhó a bhí leis an méadú sin is ea gur réachtáladh toghchán Uachtaránachta na hÉireann an 24 Deireadh Fómhair 2025 agus gur seoladh ábhar vótála, cártaí vótála ina measc, chuig gach saoránach sa stát. De réir na ngearán a fuair an Oifig seo, níor litríodh ainm an tsaoránaigh go cruinn i gcás gur ainm i nGaeilge a bhí ann, aistríodh seoladh an tsaoránaigh ó Ghaeilge go Béarla in ainneoin an seoladh a bheith i nGaeilge ar Chlár na dToghthóirí agus bhí ainm an ionaid vótaíochta i

These forms should be available bilingually so that the Irish language community would not be disadvantaged or excluded, and although the 9B provision, which places a duty on public bodies in relation to official forms, has been commenced, the provision has not yet been fully realised, as the Minister for the Gaeltacht must issue guidelines to give full effect to the provisions of 9A to 9D. As with the publication of the draft language standards referred to above, the lack of guidelines is excluding the Irish language community and denying their language rights.

However, despite the above, the interpretation of this office is that members of the public cannot be prevented from communicating with the state in their preferred official language. Additionally, when there is no Irish version of official forms available, members of the public may complete an English language official form in Irish, and this action constitutes the initiation of written communication in Irish with a public body. In such a case, the public body is obliged to reply to that communication in the same official language.

An Coimisinéir Teanga had to initiate an investigation on foot of complaints received on this matter during the year whereby the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland failed to comply with 9(1) in relation to application forms. A summary of this investigation can be found in the investigations chapter.

Name/address in Irish

In 2025, 8.4% of complaints were about the public's names and addresses being incorrect in Irish or registered and used in English against their wishes. This number of complaints was in fact double the number of complaints made about this subject in 2024, as seen in Table 5.

The main reason for this increase was that the Irish presidential election was held on 24 October 2025, and voting material, including voting cards, was sent to every citizen in the state. Complaints received by this office included citizens' names not being spelled accurately in Irish, citizens' addresses being translated from Irish to English despite the address being in Irish on the Register of Electors and the polling station name being given in English only in

mBéarla amháin i gceantair Ghaeltachta. I gcás amháin ina raibh ainm an toghcheantair i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge, ní raibh an t-ainm i nGaeilge ag teacht leis an ainm i mBéarla.

I gcás ainmneacha agus seoltaí a litriú, tugadh foráil i bhfeidhm i mí na Nollag 2024 a leagann duaglas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí a gcórais teicneolaíochta faisnéise agus cumarsáide a bheith in ann ainm, sloinne, seoladh poist agus teideal bhaill an phobail a thaifeadadh agus a phróiseáil go cruinn i nGaeilge. Cuimsítear cruinnúsáid an tsínidh fhada i nGaeilge sa bhforáil nua seo freisin. Is foráil fíorthábhachtach í seo mar go bhfaigheann m'Oifig gearáin rialta i leith sonraí pearsanta bhaill den phobal i nGaeilge a úsáid go míchruinn. Is líon an-bheag comhlachtaí poiblí ar a raibh dualgas ina leith seo faoi scáth Scéimeanna Teanga go dtí seo, rud a d'fhág go raibh sé fíordheacair an ceart bunúsach seo a fhíorú do phobal na Gaeilge agus i bhfianaise chinneadh bhreitheamh na hArd-Chúirte a rinneadh i mí na Nollag is géire fós a bheidh an fhadhb seo go dtí go bhfoilseofar na caighdeáin teanga dá dtagraítear thuas. I gcás na ngearán sin a bhaineann leis an toghchán, bhíothas in ann cuid mhaith acu a réiteach de bhun gealltanais Scéime Teanga a rinne údaráis áitiúla, réitigh a rinneadh sula ndearnadh an cinneadh Ard-Chúirte sin.

Maidir leis na seoltaí poist, baineann bunús na deacrachta leis an leagan Béarla de sheoltaí a bheith á n-úsáid mar réamhshocrú agus gan aon deis a bheith ag an bpobal an réamhshocrú i mBéarla a chur ar ceal ach leagan Gaeilge den seoladh a chlárú. Údar mór faoisimh a bheidh ann do phobal na Gaeilge go rachaidh an fhoráil thuasluaite, alt 9A. – dualgas comhlachtaí poiblí maidir le hainmneacha, seoltaí agus teidil i nGaeilge – i ngleic freisin leis an easnamh seo i gcóras Éirchód. Mar a luadh roimhe seo, ní mór d'Aire na Gaeltachta treoirlinnte reachtúla a thabhairt i bhfeidhm a roinnfidh mioneolas leis na comhlachtaí poiblí faoi chur i bhfeidhm na forála agus ní mór dó comhlachtaí poiblí a fhorordú chun críocha na forála seo.

Níor mhór a lua freisin, agus cúrsaí toghcháin á bplé, go bhfuair m'Oifig gearáin faoi thoghchán na hUachtaránachta nárbh fhéidir a fhiosrú cheal dualgais reachtúil. Bhain na gearáin sin le comharthaíocht agus le forálacha eile an Achta a sáraíodh ag/in Ionaid Vótaíochta. Is iad na Cinn Chomhairimh atá freagrach as an gcomharthaíocht

Gaeltacht areas. In one case, the constituency name was provided in both English and Irish, but the Irish version did not match the English version.

In the case of spellings of names and addresses, a provision was brought into force in December 2024 which obliges public bodies to ensure that their information and communication technology systems can accurately record and process the name, surname, postal address and title of members of the public in Irish. This new provision also includes the correct use of the síneadh fada (accent) in Irish. This is a very important provision, as my office receives regular complaints in respect of inaccurate use of the personal data of members of the public in Irish. The number of public bodies that have had an obligation in this regard is very small and arises out of Language Scheme commitments, and, consequently, it has been very difficult to realise this fundamental right for the Irish language community, and the High Court judge's decision in December has exacerbated the challenge, which will only be addressed by the publication of the language standards referred to above. In the case of those complaints relating to the election, many were resolved under Language Scheme commitments made by local authorities prior to that High Court decision.

The difficulty with postal addresses arises because the English language version is used by default, and the public cannot delete this default by registering an Irish language version of their address. The Irish-speaking community will be greatly relieved when the above-mentioned provision in section 9A – the obligation on public bodies in relation to names, addresses and titles in Irish – will also address this deficiency in the Eircode system. As mentioned previously, the Minister for the Gaeltacht must implement statutory guidelines to provide detailed information to public bodies about the implementation of the provision and must prescribe public bodies for the purposes of this provision.

It should also be mentioned in relation to electoral matters that my office received complaints about the presidential election that could not be investigated due to the absence of statutory obligations. These complaints related to signage and other provisions of the Act which were breached at/in polling stations. Returning Officers

agus as an bhfoireann (e.g. Oifigigh Cheannais agus Cléirigh Vótála) a bhíonn lonnaithe in ionaid vótaíochta le linn toghcháin a earcú. Tá Cinn Chomhairimh neamhspleách i gcomhlíonadh a ndualgas faoin Acht Toghcháin, 1992. Níl na Cinn Chomhairimh i measc na gcomhlachtaí poiblí a d'fhorordaigh an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta go dtí seo chun críoch Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, mar atá leasaithe. Dá réir sin níl dualgas reachtúil orthu cloí le forálacha an Achta Teanga.

Tá an Oifig tar éis an folús reatha maidir le seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge le linn toghchán trí chéile a tharraingt anuas leis an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, lena n-áirítear an riachtanas go dtabharfaí na Cinn Chomhairimh faoi scáth na reachtaíochta teanga.

Achtacháin eile a bhaineann le stádas nó le húsáid na Gaeilge

Bhain sciar de na gearáin le forálacha achtachán eile a bhaineann le stádas nó le húsáid na Gaeilge, lena n-áirítear úsáid na Gaeilge ar chomharthaí tráchta, a chuirtear i láthair i dTábla 5. Is sa Lámhleabhar do Chomharthaí Tráchta a leagtar síos na dualgais reachtúla teanga atá ar údaráis bhóithre i leith úsáid na Gaeilge ar chomharthaí tráchta.

I dtaca le forálacha a bhaineann le húsáid agus le stádas na Gaeilge in achtacháin eile, achtanna agus ionstraimí reachtúla an Oireachtais go háirithe, tá an Oifig ag cur bunachar cuimsitheach le chéile faoi láthair a chuimseoidh um 200 foráil a leagann dualgais ar chomhlachtaí poiblí cearta Gaeilge a sholáthar.

are responsible for signage and recruiting staff (e.g. Presiding Officers and Polling Clerks) located in Polling Stations during elections. Returning Officers are independent in the performance of their duties under the Electoral Act 1992. Returning Officers are not among the public bodies prescribed by the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to date for the purpose of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended. Accordingly, they are not statutorily obliged to comply with the provisions of the Language Act.

This office has raised the current vacuum regarding public services in Irish during elections with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, including the requirement that Returning Officers be brought under the umbrella of language legislation.

Other enactments relating to the status or use of Irish

A proportion of the complaints related to other enactment provisions relating to the status or use of Irish, including the use of Irish on traffic signs, as represented in Table 5. The Traffic Signs Manual lays down the statutory language obligations of road authorities regarding the use of Irish on traffic signs.

The office is currently compiling a comprehensive database that will include approximately 200 provisions from various enactments, acts, and statutory instruments of the Oireachtas in particular, which impose obligations on public bodies to provide Irish language rights.



Chargé d'affaires na Polainne chun na hÉireann, Artur Michalski agus ionadaithe Pharlaimint na Polainne ar cuairt ar Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga in 2025

Poland's Chargé d'affaires in Ireland, Artur Michalski along with a delegation from the Polish Parliament visiting Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga in 2025

Treochtaí Gaeltachta agus Náisiúnta

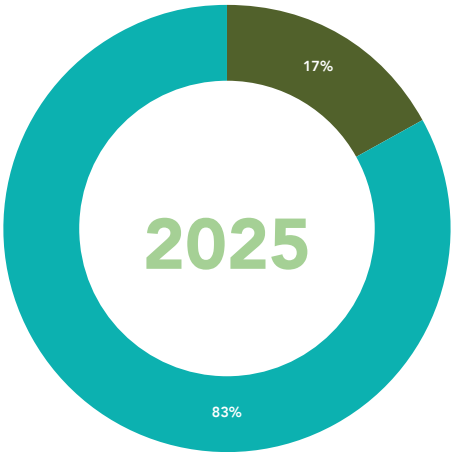
Bhí leibhéal na ngearán ón nGaeltacht seasmhach go maith agus daoine i gceantair Ghaeltachta ag déanamh 17% de líon iomlán na ngearán i gcomparáid le 16% in 2024.

Gaeltacht and National Trends

The level of complaints from the Gaeltacht was fairly stable with people in Gaeltacht areas making 17% of the total number of complaints compared to 16% in 2024.

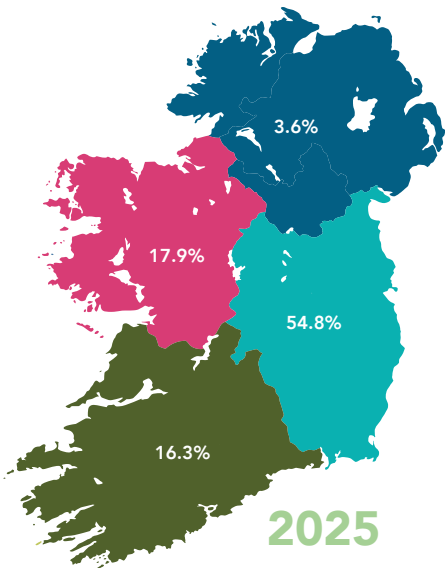
Gearáin: An Ghaeltacht agus lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht
Complaints: Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht

	2024	2025
An Ghaeltacht Gaeltacht	16%	17%
Lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht Non-Gaeltacht	84%	83%
Iomlán Total	100%	100%



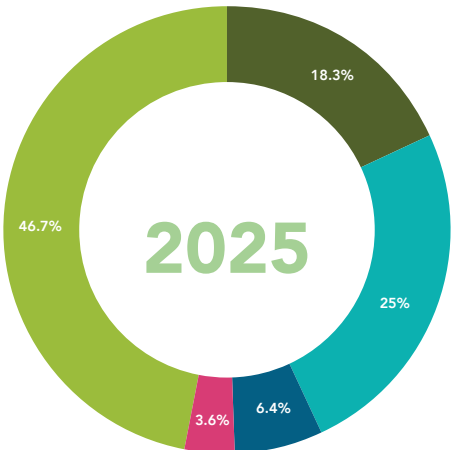
Gearáin de réir Cúige
Complaints by Province

	2024	2025
Cúige Mumhan Munster	15.3%	16.3%
Cúige Laighean Leinster	57.2%	54.8%
Cúige Uladh Ulster	1.9%	3.6%
Cúige Chonnacht Connacht	18.1%	17.9%
Níor sonraíodh an ceantar Location not specified	7.5%	7.2%



Gearáin de réir chineál an chomhlachta phoiblí
Complaints by type of public body

	2024	2025
Ranna & oifigí rialtais Government departments & offices	17%	18.3%
Údaráis áitiúla Local authorities	24%	25%
Údaráis sláinte Health authorities	5%	6.4%
Údaráis oideachais Education authorities	4.7%	3.6%
Eagraíochtaí eile Stáit Other State organisations	49.3%	46.7%
Iomlán Total	100%	100%





IMSCRÚDUI THE

Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann (ÚFIÉ)

Achoimre

Léirigh imscrúdú gur sháraigh Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann (ÚFIÉ) an dualgas reachtúil teanga a dhaingítear

- i bhfo-alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, trí chumarsáid in scríbhinn a eisiúint i mBéarla, agus freagra á thabhairt aige ar iarratas a rinne duine den phobal i scríbhinn i nGaeilge, ar scéim deontais dá chuid.
- tá dualgas ar ÚFIÉ chun críoch alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe, cumarsáid i scríbhinn a eisiúint i nGaeilge, agus freagra á thabhairt aige ar iarratas a dhéanann duine den phobal i scríbhinn i nGaeilge ar scéim deontais dá chuid. Tagann eolas a ionchur i nGaeilge, cibé ar fhoirm ar líne, nó ar chruachóip d'fhoirm iarratais, le hiarratas a dhéanamh ar scéim deontais an chomhlachta poiblí atá ar oscailt don phobal nó d'aicme den phobal, faoi scóip fo-alt 9(2), chun críoch cumarsáide i scríbhinn le comhlacht poiblí. Seasann an dualgas seo sa chás gur foirm iarratais i mBéarla atá ann a chomhlánaíonn duine den phobal i nGaeilge, agus tá dualgas ar an gcomhlacht poiblí freagra a thabhairt sa teanga oifigiúil chéanna.

Bunús na nGearán

Rinne duine den phobal gearán le m'Oifig tar éis dó scríobh i nGaeilge chuig ÚFIÉ ar mhaithe le hiarratas a dhéanamh ar scéim deontais de chuid an Údaráis. Bhí an gearánach den tuairim go raibh bac á chur air seirbhís i nGaeilge a fháil ón Údarás. Cé gur i nGaeilge a scríobh an gearánach chuig an Údarás ba i scríbhinn i mBéarla a d'fhreagair an tÚdarás an gearánach. Tharraing m'Oifig an cás anuas leis an Údarás ar an mbonn go raibh sé de cheart ag duine

INVESTIGATIONS

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

Summary

An investigation revealed that the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) breached the statutory language obligation which was ratified

- in subsection 9(2) of the Official Languages Act, by issuing a written communication in the English language in response to a request by a member of the public in the Irish language in relation to a grant scheme.
- SEAI is obliged, for the purposes of section 9(2) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, to issue any written communication in Irish, when responding to an application made in writing in Irish by a member of the public for one of its grant schemes. Inputting information in Irish, whether via an online form, or on a hard copy of an application form, to apply for a public body's grant scheme that is open to the public or a class of the public, falls within the scope of subsection 9(2) for the purposes of written communication with a public body. This obligation applies even when the application form is in English, but a member of the public completes the form in Irish, and the public body is required to respond in the same official language.

Basis of the Complaints

A member of the public complained to my Office having written in Irish to the SEAI in order to apply for a grant scheme from the Authority. The complainant believed that they were being denied a service in Irish from the Authority. Although the complainant wrote to the Authority in Irish, the Authority responded to the complainant in writing in English. My Office investigated the matter with the Authority on the basis that a member of the public had the

den phobal faoi alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, mar atá leasaithe, scríobh chuig comhlacht poiblí ina rogha teanga oifigiúla agus a bheith ag súil go bhfreagróidh an comhlacht poiblí an chumarsáid sin i scríbhinn sa teanga oifigiúil chéanna.

Tháinig sé chun solais le linn do m'Oifig a bheith ag plé an cháis le ÚFIÉ go raibh forléiriú éagsúil ag an Údarás agus ag m'Oifig ar fheidhm alt 9(2) den Acht maidir leis an dualgas a bhí ar an Údarás freagra i scríbhinn i nGaeilge a eisiúint mar fhreagra ar iarratas a dhéanfaidh duine den phobal i nGaeilge ar scéim deontais de chuid an Údaráis. Dhearbhaigh m'Oifig don Údarás gur tháinig comhthéacs inar chomhlán duine den phobal i nGaeilge foirm iarratais a bhí i mBéarla faoi scóip alt 9(2) den Acht, sa mhéid go raibh dualgas ar an gcomhlacht poiblí aon chumarsáid i scríbhinn a bheadh ag freagairt don iarratas i nGaeilge, a eisiúint i nGaeilge freisin. Áfach, ní raibh ÚFIÉ ar aon fhocal le léiriú m'Oifige chun críoch alt 9(2).

An Próiseas Imscrúduithe

An Dualgas Reachtúil

I gcomhréir le fo-alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, mar atá leasaithe, foráil atá i bhfeidhm ó 2003, leagtar dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí a chinntiú go bhfreagraítear aon chumarsáid i scríbhinn nó leis an bpost leictreonach a dhéanann duine den phobal le comhlacht i dteanga oifigiúil, sa teanga oifigiúil chéanna.

Is mar seo a leanas a shainítear an dualgas reachtúil ábhartha:

Fo-alt 9(2) Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, mar atá leasaithe	<i>I gcás ina ndéanfaidh duine cumarsáid i dteanga oifigiúil le comhlacht poiblí, i scríbhinn nó leis an bpost leictreonach, freagróidh an comhlacht poiblí sa teanga chéanna.</i>
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Scóip Feidhme alt 9(2)

Is intuigthe ó alt 9(2) go bhfuil sé de cheart ag duine den phobal cumarsáid i scríbhinn a dhéanamh ina rogha teanga oifigiúla le comhlacht poiblí. Is ar an mbunchloch sin a tógadh alt 9(2). Tá sé soiléir freisin go dtugtar tosaíocht in alt 9(2) do rogha an duine den phobal, teanga oifigiúil ar leith a roghnú le cumarsáid i scríbhinn a dhéanamh le comhlacht poiblí, thar aon rogha nó cinneadh de chuid an chomhlachta poiblí agus é ag tabhairt freagra i scríbhinn ar dhuine den phobal.

right under section 9(2) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, to write to a public body in his or her chosen official language and to expect that the public body would respond to that communication in writing in the same official language.

It emerged during my Office's discussion of the case with SEAI that the Authority and my Office had a different interpretation of the application of section 9(2) of the Act in relation to the Authority's duty to issue a written response in Irish in response to an application made in Irish by a member of the public for one of the Authority's grant schemes. My Office confirmed to the Authority that where a member of the public completed an English-language application form in Irish, it fell within the scope of section 9(2) of the Act, in that the public body was obliged to issue any written communication in Irish in response to the application completed in Irish. However, SEAI did not agree with my Office's interpretation for the purposes of section 9(2).

The Investigation Process

The Statutory Obligation

In accordance with subsection 9(2) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, a provision in force since 2003, public bodies are obliged to ensure that any written or electronic communication made by a member of the public to a body in an official language is responded to in that official language.

The relevant statutory duty is defined as follows:

Subsection 9(2) Official Languages Act 2003, as amended	<i>Where a person communicates in writing or by electronic mail in an official language with a public body, the public body shall reply in the same language.</i>
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Scope of Application of section 9(2)

It is implicit from section 9(2) that a member of the public has the right to communicate in writing in his or her chosen official language with a public body. This is the premise of section 9(2). It is also clear that section 9(2) gives priority to the member of the public's choice to choose a particular official language for communicating in writing with a public body, over any choice or decision of the public body when responding in writing to a member of the public.

Is minic gur seirbhísí idirghníomhacha ar líne nó foirmeacha ar líne is bonn leis an tslí trínar féidir le duine den phobal cumarsáid i scríbhinn a dhéanamh le comhlacht poiblí. Ní mór don chomhlacht poiblí an ceart atá ag duine den phobal a rogha teanga oifigiúla a úsáid agus é i mbun cumarsáide i scríbhinn ag úsáid na gcóras seo a aithint, agus go bhfuil sé de cheart freisin ag an duine den phobal freagra i scríbhinn a fháil sa teanga oifigiúil chéanna ón gcomhlacht poiblí. Dá réir, tá dualgas reachtúil ar an gcomhlacht poiblí na socruithe cuí a chur i bhfeidhm lena chinntiú go seastar leis na cearta teanga a fhorordaítear i bhfo-alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, mar atá leasaithe. Mura dtarlaíonn sin, tá bunchuspóir na forála in alt 9(2), agus bunús an chirt teanga atá greannta ann, á cur ó chrích.

Foirmeacha Oifigiúla

I láthair na huaire, níl aon soláthar i bhforálacha díreacha Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, mar atá leasaithe, a leagann dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí foirmeacha oifigiúla a chur ar fáil i bhfoirm chrua nó dhigiteach i nGaeilge. Faoi alt 9B d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, mar atá leasaithe, beidh dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí a fhorordóidh an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, foirmeacha oifigiúla a sholáthar i nGaeilge, nó go dátheangach. Cé gur tugadh tosach feidhme d'alt 9B den Acht leasaithe an 21 Nollaig 2024, tá comhlachtaí poiblí le forordú chun críoch an ailt seo go fóill. Eiseoidh an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta treoirlinnte reachtúla freisin a leagfaidh amach go soiléir na dualgais a bheidh ar chomhlachtaí poiblí i leith na forála seo. Dá réir, ní thagann alt 9B d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, mar atá leasaithe, maidir le foirmeacha oifigiúla, faoi scóip an Imscrúdaithe seo.

Mar sin féin, faoi réir alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, arna leasú, tá dualgas ar chomhlacht poiblí cumarsáid i scríbhinn a dhéanamh le duine den phobal a chomhlánaíonn foirm iarratais i nGaeilge (fiú más i mBéarla atá an fhoirm iarratais féin).

Príomh-mholtaí an Imscrúdaithe

1. Go gcloífidh Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann (ÚFIÉ) feasta leis an dualgas reachtúil teanga a fhorordaítear faoi alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, mar atá leasaithe,

Interactive online services or online forms are often the means by which a member of the public communicates in writing with a public body. The public body must recognise the right of a member of the public to use their official language of choice when communicating in writing using these systems, and that the member of the public also has the right to receive a written response in the same official language from the public body. Accordingly, the public body has a statutory obligation to implement the appropriate arrangements to ensure that the language rights prescribed in subsection 9(2) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, are upheld. Failure to do so defeats the fundamental purpose of the provision in section 9(2), and the essence of the language right enshrined therein.

Official Forms

There is currently no direct provision in the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, that places an obligation on public bodies to make official forms available in both hard copy and digital format in Irish. Under section 9B of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, public bodies prescribed by the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht will have a duty to provide official forms in Irish or bilingually. Although the commencement of section 9B of the amended Act was granted on 21 December 2024, public bodies are still to be prescribed for the purpose of this section. The Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht will also issue statutory guidelines, which will clearly set out the duties that public bodies will have with respect to this provision. Accordingly, section 9B of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, in respect of official forms, does not fall within the scope of this investigation.

Nevertheless, subject to section 9(2) of the Official Language Act 2003, as amended, a public body is obliged to communicate in writing in Irish to a member of the public who completes an application form in Irish (even if the application form itself is in English).

Main Recommendations of the Investigation

1. That the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) will henceforth comply with the statutory language obligation prescribed under section 9(2) of the Official Languages Act, as amended,

cumarsáid i scríbhinn i dteanga oifigiúil a fhreagairt i scríbhinn sa teanga oifigiúil chéanna.

2. Gur chóir d'ÚFIÉ cíbé socrú eagraíochtúil nó córais is gá a fheidhmiú lena chinntiú gur i nGaeilge a eisítear aon chumarsáid i scríbhinn a fhreagraíonn d'iarratas i nGaeilge ó bhall den phobal, fiú sa chás gur i mBéarla atá an fhoirm iarratais a chomhlánaíonn duine den phobal i nGaeilge. Cuimsíonn an dualgas aon chumarsáid eile i scríbhinn freisin a dhéanann duine den phobal i nGaeilge leis an Údarás, le linn don iarratas ar scéim deontais a bheith á phlé, a fhreagairt i nGaeilge.

Amlíne an Imscrúdaithe

Imscrúdú seolta: 10 Feabhra 2025

Tuarascáil eisithe: 25 Samhain 2025

to reply to written communications in an official language in writing in the same official language.

2. That the SEAI should implement whatever organisational or systemic arrangement is necessary to ensure that any written communication responding to correspondence in Irish from a member of the public is issued in Irish, even where the application form completed by a member of the public in Irish is in English. The obligation also includes any other written communication in Irish from a member of the public to the Authority while the application for a grant scheme is being assessed.

Timeline of Investigation

Investigation commenced: 10 February 2025

Report issued: 25 November 2025

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin

Achoimre

Léirigh imscrúdú gur sháraigh Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin an dualgas reachtúil teanga a dhaingnítear i bhfo-alt 18(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe, maidir le feidhmiú gealltanais Scéim Teanga dá chuid. D'éascair an sárú toisc nár fheidhmigh BOOGRC córas creidiúnaithe measúnaithe agus dearbhairthe inniúlachta teanga i leith na Gaeilge le linn an phróisis earcaíochta do phost an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna, mar chuid dá Scéim Teanga.

Bunús na nGearán

Rinneadh gearáin le m'Oifig inar líomhnaíodh gur líonadh folúntas don ról Stiúrthóir ar Scoileanna ar Bhord Oideachais agus Oiliúna na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin (BOOGRC) gan inniúlacht sa Ghaeilge a áireamh sa bpróiseas earcaíochta. Le linn don ghearán a bheith á scrúdú ag m'Oifig, ba léir go raibh gealltanais i Scéim Teanga reachtúil an Bhoird don tréimhse 2021-2024 a bhí ábhartha do bhunús an ghearáin. Dhírigh an t-imscrúdú seo ar an gcur chuige a bhí ag BOOGRC maidir le hinniúlacht i nGaeilge a áireamh le linn an phróisis earcaíochta do phost an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna.



gretb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin
Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board

Summary

An investigation has revealed that the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board breached the statutory language obligation ratified in subsection 18(1) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, in relation to the implementation of its Language Scheme commitments. The breach happened because GRETb did not use a recognised system to assess language skills in Irish when recruiting for the Director of Schools position, as required by its Language Scheme.

Basis of the Complaints

My Office received a complaint alleging that a vacancy had been filled for the role of Director of Schools in the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETb) excluding competence in Irish in the recruitment process. As my Office examined the complaint, it was apparent that there was a relevant commitment in the Board's statutory Language Scheme for the period 2021-2024. This investigation focused on the GRETb's approach to including competence in Irish in the recruitment process for the post of Director of Schools.

Comhthéacs Feidhmithe BOOGRC

Comhlacht oideachais agus oiliúna reachtúil é BOOGRC a bunaíodh ar an 1 Iúil 2013 faoin Acht um Bhoird Oideachais agus Oiliúna, 2013. Cónascadh a bhí i mBOOGRC de thrí Choiste Gairmoideachais (Cathair na Gaillimhe, Contae na Gaillimhe agus Contae Ros Comáin). Earcaíonn an tAire Príomhfheidhmeannach le bheith freagrach as stiúradh ghníomhaíochtaí gach Boird Oideachais agus Oiliúna ar leith, mar a bhfuil 16 bord go náisiúnta.

An Próiseas Imscrúdaithe

Fiosraíodh an gearán seo le BOOGRC tríd an bpróiseas neamhfhoirmiúil a fheidhmíonn m'óifig mar chéad chéim. Roinn an Oifig comhairle agus faisnéis le BOOGRC maidir leis na dualgais atá forordaithe in alt 18(1) i bhfeidhmiú ghealltanais Scéime Teanga. De bhrí nár thángthas ar réiteach sásúil ar an gcás tríd an bpróiseas sin, bheartaigh mé go mba ghá imscrúdú foirmiúil a sheoladh le teacht ar fhionnachtain ina leith.

Le linn do m'Óifig a bheith ag scrúdú an ghearáin is bonn leis an imscrúdú seo b'fhacthas go raibh na gealltanais seo a leanas i Scéim Teanga (2021 – 2024) BOOGRC ábhartha don imscrúdú seo:

1. Caibidil 3: Sonraí seirbhísí ar fáil i mBéarla amháin, i nGaeilge amháin nó go dátheangach
2. Caibidil 6: Mír 6.3 - Poist Shainithe Ghaeilge
3. Caibidil 6: Mír 6.1 - Earcaíocht

An Dualgas Reachtúil - Scéim Teanga BOOGRC (2021-2024)

Dhaingnigh an tAire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán, Scéim Teanga BOOGRC, don tréimhse 2021-2024 ar an 25 Deireadh Fómhair 2021. Tá feidhm reachtúil ag gach gealltanais a thugtar i Scéim Teanga a dhaingníonn an tAire le comhlacht poiblí agus tá dualgas dá réir na gealltanais sin a chomhlíonadh ina iomláine. Is i gCaibidil 3 agus i gCaibidil 6 de Scéim Teanga BOOGRC a thugtar gealltanais atá ábhartha don imscrúdú seo.

GRETB's Operational Context

GRETB is a statutory education and training body established on 1 July 2013 under the Education and Training Boards Act 2013. GRETB was an amalgamation of three Vocational Education Committees (Galway City, Galway County and Roscommon County). The Minister appoints a Chief Executive who oversees the activities of each of the 16 individual Education and Training Boards nationally.

The Investigation Process

My office conducted an informal investigation into this complaint with GRETB as a first step. The Office shared advice and information with GRETB regarding the duties prescribed in section 18(1) with regard to the implementation of Language Scheme commitments. As this process did not lead to a satisfactory resolution of the case, it was decided that a formal investigation leading to a finding should be conducted.

In examining the complaint underlying this investigation, my Office found the following relevant commitments in GRETB's Language Scheme (2021–2024):

1. Chapter 3: Details of services available in English only, Irish only or bilingually
2. Chapter 6: Paragraph 6.3 - Defined Irish Language Posts
3. Chapter 6: Paragraph 6.1 - Recruitment

The Statutory Obligation – GRETB Language Scheme (2021-2024)

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media confirmed the GRETB Language Scheme for the period 2021-2024 on 25 October 2021. Every commitment given in a language scheme ratified by the Minister to a public body has statutory force, and there is a duty accordingly to comply fully with those commitments. Chapters 3 and 6 of GRETB's Language Scheme contain commitments relevant to this investigation.

1) Caibidil 3: Sonraí seirbhísí ar fáil i mBéarla amháin, i nGaeilge amháin nó go dátheangach

Tá sé le forléiriú ó ghealltanais Scéim Teanga BOOGRC i gCaibidil 3 maidir le ról an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna go bhfuil dualgas soiléir ann seirbhísí a sholáthar sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Áirítear ról an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna faoina teideal i gCaibidil 3: ‘Sonraí seirbhísí ar fáil’ a thugann le fios go bhfuil seirbhísí an róil le soláthar ‘Go Dátheangach’.

Fágann sin go bhfuiltear ag gealladh go mbeidh an chumarsáid a bhaineann le ról an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna á comhlíonadh sa dá theanga oifigiúla (‘Go Dátheangach’).

Tá sé ríshoiléir ó dhualgais an phoist mar Stiúrthóir ar Scoileanna, go bhfuil an ról dírithe ar fhreastal ar phobal leathan scolaíochta a chuimsíonn an limistéar Gaeltachta is mó sa tír, Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe. Níl aon cheist ann ach go leagtar dualgas síos i gCaibidil 3 go mbeadh sealbhóir ról an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna in ann freastal ar an bpobal sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Chuige sin bhí dualgas ar BOOGRC le linn an phróisis earcaíochta le haghaidh phost an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna a chinntiú go gcuirfí próiseas creidiúnaithe measúnaithe agus dearbhaithe inniúlachta teanga ó thaobh na Gaeilge i bhfeidhm.

2) Caibidil 6: Mír 6.3 - Poist Shainithe Ghaeilge

Leagtar síos i mbrollach Mír 6.3 (Poist Shainithe Ghaeilge) go mbeadh ‘caighdeáin shonraithe chreidiúnaithe sa Ghaeilge bainte amach ag sealbhóirí’, lena n-áirítear ‘stiúrthóirí’. Thug BOOGRC le fios don imscrúdú gur phost ag grád príomhoifigigh a bhí i gceist le post an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna, a bunaíodh faoi struchtúr nua-bhunaithe na mBord Oideachais agus Oiliúna go náisiúnta, agus nach raibh sé i gceist go n-áireofaí mar ‘stiúrthóir’ i gcomhthéacs Scéim Teanga BOOGRC é. Míníodh go raibh poist sean-bhunaithe leis an teideal ‘stiúrthóir’ agus gurb é sin a bhí i gceist sa tagairt sa Scéim Teanga.

Tagraíonn “Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla BOOGRC 2003-Scéim Teanga 2021-2024” do na poist “Stiúrthóra” seo agus ní thagraíonn siad do ról an Stiúrthóra Bainistíochta Sinsearach a ceadaíodh le déanaí ag leibhéal an Phríomhoifigigh.

1) Chapter 3: Details of services available in English only, Irish only or bilingually

It can be interpreted from the commitment of the GRET B’s Language Scheme in Chapter 3 in relation to the role of the Director of Schools that there is a clear duty to provide services in both official languages. The role of the Director of Schools is included under Chapter 3: ‘Details of services available’, which indicates that the services of the role are to be provided ‘bilingually’. This means that the communication relating to the role of the Director of Schools is committed to being fulfilled in both official languages (‘bilingually’).

It is extremely clear from the duties of the post of Director of Schools that the role is focused on serving a broad community of schooling that encompasses the largest Gaeltacht area in the country, the Galway Gaeltacht. Chapter 3 undoubtedly lays down a duty for the holder of the role of Director of Schools to be able to serve the public in both official languages. To this end, GRET B was obliged during the recruitment process for the post of Director of Schools to ensure that an accredited assessment process and confirmation of language competence in relation to the Irish language were implemented.

2) Chapter 6: Paragraph 6.3 – Defined Irish Language Posts

The preface to Paragraph 6.3 (Defined Irish Language Posts) stipulates that ‘holders’, including ‘directors’, ‘would have achieved specified accreditation standards in Irish’. GRET B advised the investigation that the post of Director of Schools, established under the newly established structure of ETBs nationally, was a principal officer grade post and was not intended to fall under the scope of ‘director’ in the context of the GRET B Language Scheme. It was explained that there were established posts with the title ‘director’ and the commitment in the Language Scheme referred to these posts only.

The “GRET B Official Languages Act 2003- Language Scheme 2021-2024” refers to these “Director” posts and does not refer to the recently approved Senior Managing Director roles at Principal Officer level.

Cuimsíonn na poist a shainítear faoin teideal 'Teideal an Phoist' i Mír 6.3 aicme leathan rólanna bainistíochta (e.g. stiúrthóirí, bainisteoirí, comhordaitheoirí). Ní shainítear, áfach, aon ghrád le haon cheann de na rólanna bainistíochta a luaitear, rud a fhágann gur féidir ról an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna a thuiscint faoi scóip an ghealltanais i Mír 6.3. Nuair a shainítear teideal poist a bhfuil raon feidhme leathan aige ar nós 'stiúrthóirí' nó 'bainisteoirí' is forléiriú réasúnach é go gcuimsítear ceapacháin nua a úsáideann na teidil chéanna faoi scóip na ngealltanais Scéime Teanga ina sainítear na post-teidil sin.

3) Caibidil 6: Inniúlacht sa Ghaeilge a Fheabhsú (Mír 6.1 - Earcaíocht)

Leagtar amach i gCaibidil 6 na céimeanna a chaithfidh BOOGRC a ghlacadh le go bhfeabhsófar inniúlacht i nGaeilge i measc na foirne. De réir mhír 6.1 aithnítear gurb é earcú foirne ag a bhfuil scileanna Gaeilge, i ngach réimse d'obair BOOGRC, an príomhbhealach a bheidh ann chun barr feabhais a chur ar sheirbhísí a bheith ar fáil i nGaeilge. Gealltar freisin i Mír 6.2 go gcuirfear deiseanna ar fáil do bhaill foirne le freastal ar chúrsaí oiliúna creidiúnaithe Gaeilge de réir acmhainní na heagraíochta. Mínítear chomh maith, go gcuirtear eolas ar fáil don fhoireann ina hiomláine i dtaca le deiseanna agus áiseanna a bhíonn ar fáil le feabhas a chur ar inniúlacht na foirne i nGaeilge.

Fionnachtain an Imscrúdaithe

Ba é forléiriú m'Oifige go dtagann ról an Stiúrthóra ar Scoileanna freisin faoi scóip na rólanna mar 'stiúrthóirí' a shainítear i Mír 6.3 (Poist Shainithe Ghaeilge) de Scéim Teanga BOOGRC. Dá réir, bhí dualgas ar an mBord próiseas iontaofa measúnaithe agus dearbhaithe inniúlachta teanga, amhail Comhchreat Tagartha na hEorpa um Theangacha, a leagan síos ó thús an phróisis earcaíochta, próiseas a dhéanadh inniúlacht 'Ardleibhéil Inmhianaithe' i nGaeilge a thomhas go córasach. Dá oireasa sin bhí iontaofacht an chórais mheasúnaithe agus dearbhaithe inniúlachta Gaeilge a d'fheidhmigh BOOGRC gan bhonn agus ag sárú an dualgais reachtúil teanga a forordaíodh ina Scéim Teanga.

The posts defined under the title 'Job Title' in Section 6.3 comprise a broad class of management roles (e.g., directors, managers, and coordinators). However, no grade is defined with any of the management roles mentioned, making it possible to understand the role of the Director of Schools within the scope of the undertaking in Section 6.3. When a job title is defined with a broad scope, such as 'directors' or 'managers', it is a reasonable interpretation that new appointments using the same titles are included within the scope of the Language Scheme commitments which define these job titles.

3) Chapter 6: Improving Irish-language Proficiency (6.1 - Recruitment)

Chapter 6 sets out the steps that GRET B must take to improve Irish language proficiency among its staff. Section 6.1 recognises that recruiting staff with Irish language skills, in all areas of GRET B's work, will be the primary means of improving the availability of services in Irish. Section 6.2 also commits that opportunities will be provided for staff to attend accredited Irish-language training courses in accordance with the organisation's resources. It also explains that information is provided to all staff regarding opportunities and facilities available to improve staff's Irish language proficiency.

Investigation Findings

It was my Office's interpretation that the role of the Director of Schools also falls within the scope of the roles of 'directors' defined in Section 6.3 (Irish Language Designated Posts) of the GRET B Language Scheme. Accordingly, the Board was obliged to establish a reliable process of Irish language proficiency assessment and certification of language, such as the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, from the outset of the recruitment process which would systematically measure in relation to proficiency in Irish. Failure to do so would render the reliability of the system of Irish language proficiency assessment and certification operated by GRET B unfounded and in breach of the statutory language obligation prescribed in its Language Scheme.

Príomh-mholtaí an Imscrúdaithe

- Go gcinnteoidh BOOGRC go bhfuil sé ag cloí leis an ngealltanas a thugtar i Mír 6.3 (Poist Shainithe Ghaeilge) a éilíonn go gcuirtear córas creidiúnaithe measúnaithe agus dearbhaithe inniúlachta teanga i leith na Gaeilge i bhfeidhm, agus é i mbun earcaíochta don raon post a thagann faoi scóip an ghealltanais sin.
- Go gcuirfidh BOOGRC tuairisc ar fáil do m'Oifig laistigh de thrí mhí ó dháta na tuarascála seo ar na socrúithe eagraíochtúla atá an Bord a ghlacadh lena chinntiú nach dtarlóidh sárú athuair ar fho-alt 18(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, mar atá leasaithe, maidir le feidhmiú gealltanais Scéime Teanga dá chuid.

Amlíne an Imscrúdaithe

Imscrúdú seolta: 27 Bealtaine 2025

Tuarascáil eisithe: 16 Nollaig 2025

Main Recommendations of the Investigation

- GRETB ensures that it is complying with the commitment given in Section 6.3 (Defined Irish Language Posts), which requires the implementation of an accredited system of assessment and assurance of language competence in respect of the Irish language when recruiting for the range of posts falling within the scope of that commitment.
- GRETB provides my Office with a report, within three months of the date of this report, on the organisational arrangements that the Board is adopting to ensure that there is no repeat contravention of subsection 18(1) of the Official Languages Act 2003, as amended, in relation to the implementation of its Language Scheme commitments.

Timeline of Investigation

Investigation commenced: 27 May 2025

Report issued: 16 December 2025



Aitheasc an Choimisinéara Teanga, Séamas Ó Concheanainn, ag Comhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus Phobal Labhartha na Gaeilge. Tá Órla de Búrca, Bainisteoir Gearán, Eibhlín de Paor, Bainisteoir Imscrúduithe agus Maggie Ní Chadhain, Bainisteoir Oibríochtaí i dteannta an Choimisinéara Teanga

Address by An Coimisinéir Teanga, Séamas Ó Concheanainn, to the Joint Committee on the Irish language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community. An Coimisinéir Teanga is accompanied by Órla de Búrca, Complaints Manager, Eibhlín de Paor, Investigations Manager and Maggie Ní Chadhain, Operations Manager



FAIREACHÁN AR IMSCRÚDITHE

INVESTIGATIONS MONITORING

Údarás Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath (ÚABÁC)

Achoimre

I Mí an Mhárta, 2023, cuireadh sraith nua comharthaí ar taispeáint a roinneann faisnéis leis an bpobal faoin aerfort ó am a bhunaithe. Cuimsíonn na comharthaí ceannscríbhinní agus foscíbhinní ar mhaithe le feasacht a ardú faoin aerfort agus faisnéis a roinnt leis an bpobal faoi imeachtaí stairiúla a tharla ar láthair an aerfoirt.

Bhí na comharthaí ar crochadh ar dhá thaobh an bhealaigh a siúlann paisinéirí tríd ar a slí go dtí Críochfort 1, rud a d'fhág go raibh radharc ag baill an phobail orthu agus iad ag fágáil an chríochfoirt nó ag filleadh air.

I measc na n-imeachtaí a ndéantar cur síos orthu sna comharthaí seo tá:

1. Bliain oscailte an aerfoirt.
2. Tógáil an chéad rúidbhealaigh san aerfort.
3. Teach an bhanna ceoil *The Beatles* go hAerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath i 1963.
4. Foireann sacair na hÉireann tar éis Chorn Sacair an Domhain i 1990.
5. Katie Taylor ar láthair an aerfoirt tar éis na gCluichí Oilimpeacha in 2012 agus í ar bord eitleán.

De bhun gearáin a rinneadh leis an Oifig, chuathas i mbun fiosraithe le ÚABÁC maidir leis an téacs a bhí i mBéarla amháin ar na comharthaí. De bhrí nár éirigh leis na fiosraithe neamhfhoirmeálta a thionscnaigh an Oifig mar chéad chéim, cuireadh tús le próiseas imscrúdaithe faoin ábhar. Léirigh an t-imscrúdú sin a tháinig chun críche an 5 Nollaig 2024 gur sháraigh Údarás Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath an dualgas reachtúil teanga a dhaingnítear sna rialacháin a eisíodh faoi fho-alt 9(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 (I.R. Uimh. 391/2008 - Na Rialacháin Um Acht



Dublin Airport Authority (DAA)

Summary

In March 2023, a new set of signs publicly displaying information about the airport since its inception was erected. The signs include headings and subtext to raise awareness of the airport and to share information with the public about historical events that have occurred on the airport site.

The signs were visible on both sides of the pedestrian route to Terminal 1, allowing the public to see them as they left the terminal building or returned to it.

Among the events described in these signs are:

1. The year the airport was opened.
2. The construction of the airport's first runway.
3. The arrival of The Beatles at the airport in 1963.
4. The Irish soccer team after the World Cup in 1990.
5. Katie Taylor aboard a plane at the airport after the 2012 Olympic Games.

Following a complaint made to the Office, an investigation was launched into DAA's use of English text only on the signs. The informal enquiries initiated by the office as a first step were unsuccessful, and a formal investigation into the matter was initiated. This investigation, which concluded on 5 December 2024, showed that Dublin Airport Authority breached the statutory language obligation enshrined in the regulations issued under subsection 9(1) of the Official Languages Act, 2003 (S.I. No. 391/2008 - Official

Na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 (Alt 9) 2008.), i gcás comharthaí a chuir an tÚdarás in airde i mBéarla amháin i gCríochfort 1 in Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath.

An Dualgas Reachtúil – Alt 9(1)

An Dualgas Reachtúil - I.R 391 de 2008 (Na Rialacháin um Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 [Alt 9] 2008)

Leagann na Rialacháin (Rialacháin um Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 (Alt 9) I.R. Uimh. 391 de 2008) a eisíodh faoi fho-alt 9(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, dualgas reachtúil teanga ar chomhlachtaí poiblí a fhorordaítear faoin Acht, Údarás Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath san áireamh, i dtaca le comharthaíocht. De réir na rialachán sin, ní mór comharthaí a chuireann comhlacht poiblí in airde a bheith i nGaeilge, nó i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla araon. Ní cheadaítear comharthaí a chur in airde i mBéarla amháin.

Is mar seo a leanas a leagtar amach an dualgas i mír 6(1) agus 7(2) de na Rialacháin um Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 (Alt 9) I.R. Uimh. 391 de 2008:

'Alt 6(1) Faoi réir fhorálacha an Rialacháin seo, maidir le haon chomhartha a chuireann comhlacht poiblí in airde, nó a chuirtear in airde thar ceann aon chomhlachta phoiblí in aon suíomh—

(a) sa Stat, nó

(b) ach amháin i gcás comhlachta forfheidhmithe, lasmuigh den Stát

is i nGaeilge nó i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla a bheidh sé.

Alt 7(2) Beidh feidhm ag na forálacha seo a leanas maidir le comhartha i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla a chuireann comhlacht poiblí in aon suíomh:

(a) beidh an téacs i nGaeilge ann ar dtús,

(b) beidh an téacs i nGaeilge chomh feiceálach, chomh sofheicthe agus chomh hinléite céanna leis an téacs i mBéarla,

(c) ní bheidh na litreacha sa téacs i nGaeilge níos lú, ó thaobh méide de, ná na litreacha sa téacs i mBéarla,

(d) maidir leis an téacs i nGaeilge, cuirfidh sé in iúl an fhaisnéis chéanna leis an bhfaisnéis a chuireann an téacs i mBéarla in iúl, agus

(e) ní dhéanfar focal sa téacs i nGaeilge a ghiorrú mura rud é go bhfuil an focal sa téacs i mBéarla, ar aistriúchán air é, giorraithe freisin.'

Languages Act 2003 (Section 9) Regulations 2008), in the case of signs erected by the Authority in English only in Terminal 1 at Dublin Airport.

The Statutory Duty – Section 9(1)

The Statutory Duty - S.I. 391 of 2008 (Official Languages Act 2003 [Section 9] Regulations 2008)

The Regulations (Official Languages Act 2003 (Section 9) Regulations S.I. No. 391 of 2008) issued under subsection 9(1) of the Official Languages Act 2003 place a statutory language obligation on public bodies prescribed under the Act, including Dublin Airport Authority, in relation to signage. According to those regulations, signs erected by a public body must be in Irish or in both Irish and English. Signs may not be erected in English only.

The obligation is outlined in paragraphs 6(1) and 7(2) of the Official Languages Act 2003 Regulations (Section 9) S.I. No. 391 2008 as follows:

'Section 6 (1) Subject to the provisions of this Regulation, any sign placed by or on behalf of a public body at any location—

(a) in the State, or

(b) except in the case of an implementation body, outside the State

shall be in the Irish language or in the Irish and English languages.

Section 7(2) The following provisions shall apply to a sign in the Irish and English languages placed at any location by a public body:

(a) the text in the Irish language shall appear first,

(b) the text in the Irish language shall not be less prominent, visible, or legible than the text in the English language,

(c) the lettering of the text in the Irish language shall not be smaller in size than the lettering of the text in the English language,

(d) the text in the Irish language shall communicate the same information as is communicated by the text in the English language, and

(e) a word in the text in the Irish language shall not be abbreviated unless the word in the text in the English language, of which it is the translation, is also abbreviated.'

Príomh-mholtaí an imscrúdaithe

- 1) Go ngníomhóidh Údarás Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath ionas go mbeidh, a luaithe agus is féidir, an fhaisnéis a thaispeántar ar na comharthaí is ábhar don imscrúdú i gcomhréir leis na rialacháin faoi fho-alt 9(1).
- 2) a. Go n-ullmhóidh Údarás Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath dréacht-treoirínite maidir le húsáid na dteangacha oifigiúla ar chomharthaíocht de réir na Rialachán um Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 (alt 9) 2008, (I.R. Uimh. 391 de 2008).
- b. Go n-eiseofar na treoirínite chuig foireann an Údaráis ar mhaithe le feasacht ar na Rialacháin, agus géilliúlacht dóibh, maidir le comharthaíocht a chinntiú. Go n-eiseoidh Údarás Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath ciorclán go bliantúil chuig an bhfoireann chun na dualgais reachtúla sna Rialacháin thuasluaite maidir le comharthaíocht a mheabhú dóibh chun críoch na géilliúlachta.

An obair iniúchta

Dheimhnigh Údarás Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath do m'Oifig go ndearnadh 'nua-shonrú' ar na comharthaí le téacs Gaeilge agus Béarla ar thaispeáint le cloí le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Cuireadh roinnt grianghraf mar fhianaise ar fáil.

Cuireadh in iúl dúinn go bhfuiltear tar éis Stiúrthóir Margaíochta Grúpa a cheapadh chun maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fheidhmíocht, agus chun tuairisc a thabhairt ar oibleagáidí ÚABÁC faoi Achtanna na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Mar chuid de seo, tugadh le fios go bhfuil ÚABÁC tar éis achoimre ar threoirínite Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla a chur le chéile agus go gcuirtear in iúl do na haonaid ghnó ábhartha atá freagrach as cumarsáid le paisinéirí é ar bhonn rialta d'fhonn béim ar leith a leagan ar chomharthaíocht agus ar fhógraíocht.

Ina theannta sin thug ÚABÁC le fios go n-úsáideann sé "gníomhaireacht aistriúcháin oifigiúil chun aistriúchán comhsheasmhach Gaeilge a chinntiú thar gach pointe tadhaill paisinéirí. Tá rochtain ag gach aonad gnó laistigh den DAA ar an tseirbhís aistriúcháin seo."

Main recommendations of the investigation

- 1) Dublin Airport Authority will act so that, as soon as possible, the information displayed on the signs subject to the investigation complies with the regulations under subsection 9(1).
- 2) a. Dublin Airport Authority prepares draft guidelines regarding the use of official languages on signage in accordance with the Official Languages Act 2003 (section 9) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 391 of 2008).
- b. The guidelines be issued to Authority staff to ensure awareness of, and compliance with, the regulations in relation to signage. Dublin Airport Authority issues an annual circular to staff to remind them of the statutory obligations in the above regulations regarding signage for the purpose of compliance.

The audit work

Dublin Airport Authority confirmed to my Office that the signs were 'newly updated' with Irish and English text on display to comply with the Official Languages Act. Some photographs were provided as evidence.

We were informed that a Group Marketing Director has been appointed to oversee performance and to report on DAA's obligations under the Official Languages Acts. As part of this, it was stated that a summary of the Official Languages Act guidelines has been produced by the DAA and is communicated to the relevant business units responsible for passenger communications on a regular basis, with particular emphasis on signage and advertising.

In addition, DAA indicated that it uses "An official translation agency to ensure consistent Irish translation across all passenger contact points. All business units within DAA have access to this translation service."

Tugadh le fios sa gcomhfhreagras céanna go rabhthas tiomanta do mholtaí na tuarascála a chur i bhfeidhm agus do na dualgaís faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021 a chomhlíonadh.

Táta

Aithnítear ról thar a bheith tábhachtach i measc lucht léinn na sochtheangeolaíochta a bheith ag baint le comharthaíocht mar a leagtar síos in alt 9(1) le tírdhreach teangeolaíoch teanga a chothú agus a neartú. In úsáid na comharthaíochta dátheangaí, cuirtear an Ghaeilge chun cinn go neamhfhoirmeálta i measc an phobail.

Oibríonn sé trí fheidhm phraiticiúil a bheith leis an nGaeilge ar chomharthaíocht agus ina theannta sin sa tslí go bhfeictear an Ghaeilge mar ghnáthchuid den saol go laethúil.

Trí infheictheacht na Gaeilge sa tslí seo, cuirtear le stádas na teanga agus dá bharr sin lena húsáid i measc an phobail agus cuireann sé le mórtas na bpobal sin ina bhfuil sí mar ghnáth-theanga urlabhra.

I bhfianaise gur thaistil 36.4 milliún paisinéir trí Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath le linn na bliana 2025 – ardú 5.1% ón mbliain roimhe sin – is léir gur mór an tionchar atá ag na comharthaí nua ar an bpobal trí chéile.

Príomhfhionnachtain

Tá teagmháil ar bhonn rialta idir m'Oifig agus ÚABÁC ar an ábhar seo agus gabhaim buíochas leo as an gcomhoibriú leanúnach.

The same correspondence indicated a commitment to implementing the report's recommendations and to complying with the duties under the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021.

Conclusion

The use of signage such as outlined in section 9(1) has long been recognised by sociolinguistic academics as having a very important role in fostering and strengthening a linguistic landscape. Through the use of bilingual signage, Irish is promoted informally to the public.

It works by giving Irish a practical function on signage, which in turn has a societal effect as Irish is seen as a normal part of daily life.

The visibility of Irish in this way enhances the status of the language and consequently its use among the community and enhances the pride of those communities where it is spoken daily.

Given that 36.4 million passengers travelled through Dublin Airport in 2025 – an increase of 5.1% from the previous year – the impact of the new signs on the wider community is significant.

Key findings

My Office has regular contact with DAA on this matter, and I thank them for their continued cooperation.

Baill d'Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga i dteannta Uachtarán Tofa na hÉireann, Catherine Connolly, ag Oireachtas na Samhna 2025 i mBéal Feirste.
Members of Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga staff with President elect, Catherine Connolly, at Oireachtas na Samhna 2025 in Belfast.



RTÉ

Achoimre

Léirigh imscrúdú ar cuireadh críoch leis i Mí na Nollag 2018 gur sháraigh RTÉ forálacha teanga an Acht Craolacháin, 2009. Leagtar dualgais san Acht ar RTÉ réimse cuimsitheach clár a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla i gclársceidil a chuid seirbhísí craolacháin, chomh maith le cláir nuachta agus cúrsaí reatha a chur ar fáil sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Sáraíodh an tAcht mar gheall nach raibh réimse cuimsitheach clár teilifíse i nGaeilge ná clár teilifíse cúrsaí reatha i nGaeilge á gcráladh ag an stáisiún, mar a éilítear faoin reachtaíocht.

Príomh-mholtaí an Imscrúduithe

Ba é an príomh-mholadh a rinneadh sa tuarascáil imscrúdaithe go n-ullmhódh RTÉ plean feidhmithe, chun go gcomhlíonfaí na dualgais reachtúla a dhaingnítear i bhfo-ailt 114(3)(a) agus (b) den Acht Craolacháin, 2009, d'fhonn réimse cuimsitheach clár teilifíse i nGaeilge agus cláir theilifíse cúrsaí reatha i nGaeilge a chur ar fáil.

An próiseas faireacháin

Déanaimid faireacháin rialta ar an gcaoi a bhfuil RTÉ ag comhlíonadh mholtaí an imscrúdaithe seo agus bíonn cumarsáid rialta idir RTÉ agus m'Oifig.

I gcomhfhreagras ó RTÉ an 4 Feabhra 2026, tugadh le fios go rabhthas tar éis 1,534 uair an chloig d'ábhar Gaeilge a chraoladh roimh dheireadh na bliana 2025. Tugadh le fios gur gach seánra agus meascán de bhunchláir inmheánacha agus choimisiúnaithe chomh maith le cláir a ceannaíodh ó TG4 a bhí sna huaireanta sin. Tugadh le fios go leanfaidh Rannóg na gClár Gaeilge d'fheidhmiú ina haonad lánaimseartha agus go gcrálfar sraith nua sheachtainiúil cúrsaí reatha ar RTÉ One. Cuireadh teilgean ar fáil chomh maith a léirigh na huaireanta cloig craolacháin as Gaeilge atá RTÉ a thuar don bhliain 2026.

Sa chomhfhreagras céanna, tugadh le fios gur cráladh an clár Nuacht RTÉ le TG4 gach lá ar RTÉ ONE mar aon leis an gclár Fóram a cráladh go seachtainiúil maidineacha Domhnaigh le linn thréimhse na Dála.

RTÉ

Summary

An investigation that concluded in December 2018 revealed that RTÉ had breached the language provisions of the Broadcasting Act 2009. The Act places a duty on RTÉ to provide a comprehensive range of programmes in both Irish and English in the programming of its broadcasting services, as well as news and current affairs programmes in both official languages. The Act was breached as the station was not broadcasting a comprehensive range of Irish-language television programmes or current affairs television programmes in Irish, as required under the legislation.

Key recommendations of the Investigation

The main recommendation made in the investigation report was that RTÉ prepare an implementation plan to comply with the statutory obligations confirmed in subsections 114(3)(a) and (b) of the Broadcasting Act 2009 in order to provide a comprehensive range of Irish-language television programmes and current affairs television programmes in Irish.

Monitoring process

We regularly monitor RTÉ's compliance with the recommendations of this investigation, and there is regular communication between RTÉ and my office.

In correspondence from RTÉ on 4 February 2026, it was revealed that 1,534 hours of Irish language content had been broadcast before the end of 2025. It was revealed that these hours consisted of all genres and combinations of internal and commissioned programmes, as well as programmes purchased from TG4. It was revealed that the Irish Language Programmes Section will continue to operate as a full-time unit and that a new weekly series of current affairs will be broadcast on RTÉ One. A projection was also provided showing RTÉ's forecasted hours of broadcasting in Irish for 2026.

In the same correspondence, it was revealed that the Nuacht RTÉ programme with TG4 was broadcast daily on RTÉ ONE along with the Fóram programme, which was broadcast weekly on Sunday mornings during the Dáil period.



I bhfreagra RTÉ, tugadh le fios gur craoladh 206 uair an chloig d'ábhar Gaeilge ar an iomlán ar RTÉ ONE sa bhliain 2025. Dúradh gur craoladh den chéad uair a bhí i 146 uair an chloig (71%) agus gur athchraoltaí a bhí sna 60 uair an chloig eile (29%).

Craoladh 272.5 uair an chloig d'ábhar Gaeilge ar an iomlán ar RTÉ2. As an 272.5 uair an chloig a craoladh, tugadh le fios go raibh cláir a ceannaíodh mar chuid de thionsnamh comhpháirtíochta 'RTÉ/TG4 Ar scáth a chéile', faoinar chraol RTÉ chomh maith i gceist anseo. Tugadh le fios chomh maith go raibh an t-ábhar seo le fáil ar an RTÉ Player chomh maith i rith na bliana. Ina theannta sin, dúradh go raibh go leor sraitheanna éagsúla do leanaí san áireamh anseo.

Craoladh 740 uair an chloig d'ábhar Gaeilge ar an iomlán ar RTÉjr. Dúradh go raibh ar a laghad dhá uair an chloig sa ló de chlár Ghaeilge ar RTÉjr gach lá i rith 2025 arbh é a bhí ann ábhar beo agus beochana, roinnt ábhar a léiríodh go himmheánach agus roinnt ábhar a ceannaíodh. Tugadh le fios gur éirigh thar barr le Peppa Muc ar RTÉ Player i rith na bliana agus go raibh an-tóir chomh maith ar Thomás agus a Chairde.

Maidir leis an gcainéal RTÉ NEWS, tugadh le fios nach bhfuil sé ar chóras craolacháin RTÉ 'WON' go fóill ach go bhfuil obair ar bun faoi láthair chun é a chur ar an gcóras inmheánach agus go mbeidh figiúirí níos cruinne ar fáil nuair a thabharfar an obair seo i gcrích. Tugadh le fios gur chraol an cainéal RTÉ NEWS 335.5 uair an chloig d'ábhar Gaeilge ar an iomlán - 307.5 uair an chloig d'ábhar nuachta cúrsaí reatha a craoladh, arbh é a bhí ann feasacháin laethúla ó Nuacht RTÉ le TG4, Nuacht TG4 agus ó na sraitheanna cúrsaí reatha 7 Lá agus Fóram [Nuacht Bheo 33 uair an chloig, Nuacht TG4 agus athchraoladh Nuacht TG4 gach lá 143.5 uair an chloig agus cúrsaí reatha 82 uair an chloig].

Craoladh 28 uair an chloig d'ábhar spóirt. Dúradh go raibh an tráchttaireacht 'as Gaeilge' le fáil freisin mar chainéal neamhspleách ar an RTÉ Player. Tugadh le fios, chomh maith gur éirigh le RTÉ clár sa bhreis a dhéanamh arís i mbliana de Chluichí Ceannais na hÉireann, agus go raibh an lucht teilifíse agus raidió ag obair as lámh a chéile ar dhá chlár bheo speisialta. Tá sé i gceist ag RTÉ cur leis an aschur spóirt i rith 2026 ag tosú le cluichí na Sé Náisiún i mí Feabhra.

In RTÉ's response, it was revealed that a total of 206 hours of Irish language content was broadcast on RTÉ ONE in 2025. It was stated that 146 hours (71%) were broadcast for the first time and the remaining 60 hours (29%) were repeats.

A total of 272.5 hours of Irish language content was broadcast on RTÉ2. Of the 272.5 hours broadcast, it was revealed that programmes purchased were part of the 'RTÉ/TG4 Shared' partnership initiative, under which RTÉ also broadcast here. It was also revealed that this material was also available on RTÉ Player throughout the year. In addition, it was stated that this included many different series for children.

A total of 740 hours of Irish language content was broadcast on RTÉjr. It was stated that at least two hours of Irish language programming on RTÉjr each day during 2025 consisted of live and animated material, some produced internally and some purchased. It was revealed that Peppa Muc was a huge success on RTÉ Player throughout the year, and Tomás & a chairde were also very popular.

In relation to the RTÉ NEWS channel, it has been revealed that it is not yet on the RTÉ 'WON' broadcasting system but that work is currently underway to place it on the internal system and that more accurate figures will be available once this work is completed. It was revealed that the RTÉ NEWS channel broadcast a total of 335.5 hours of Irish-language content – 307.5 hours of current affairs news content broadcast – which consisted of daily bulletins from Nuacht TG4 with TG4, Nuacht TG4 and the current affairs series 7 Lá and Fóram [33 hours of live news, Nuacht TG4 and a repeat of Nuacht TG4 daily for 143.5 hours and 82 hours of current affairs].

28 hours of sports material was broadcast. It was stated that the commentary 'as Gaeilge' was also available as an independent channel on the RTÉ Player. It was also revealed that RTÉ had managed to repeat an additional programme this year at the All-Ireland Finals and that TV and radio staff were working hand in hand on two special live programmes. RTÉ intends to increase sports output during 2026, starting with the Six Nations games in February.

Seo a leanas achoimre bheacht ar an gcráladh ar chóras sceidealaithe RTÉ, WON 1218.5 uair an chloig an líon iomlán uaireanta cloig a craoladh ar RTÉ ONE, RTÉ2 agus ar RTÉjr faoi dheireadh na bliana. Anuas air sin craoladh 307.5 uair an chloig d’ábhar Nuachta agus Cúrsaí Reatha agus 28 uair a chloig d’ábhar spóirt. Ba shin 1,554 uair an chloig a bhí san aschur iomlán Gaeilge a chraol RTÉ i rith na bliana 2025.

I gcomhfhreagras ó RTÉ an 4 Feabhra 2026, cuireadh teilgean ar fáil a léirigh na huaireanta cloig craolacháin i nGaeilge atá RTÉ ag beartú do 2026.

Is léir go bhfuil méadú suntasach tar éis a theacht bliain i ndiaidh bliana ar líon na n-uaireanta cloig craolacháin as Gaeilge ar sheirbhísí teilifíse RTÉ. Is mór agam an dearbhú sonraí agus an comhoibriú leanúnach atá RTÉ a chur ar fáil go tráthrialta dúinn agus an t-iniúchadh seo ar bun againn le roinnt blianta anuas.

Tá monatóireacht leanúnach á déanamh ag an Oifig ar chéatadán na n-uaireanta a athchraolann RTÉ i bhfianaise sholáthar iomlán na gclár i nGaeilge. Tá sé seo amhlaidh freisin maidir le líon na n-uaireanta a chraoltar i nGaeilge le linn príomh-am an sceidil.

Príomhfhionnachtain

Tá teagmháil leanúnach ag m’Oifig le RTÉ ar an ábhar seo agus gabhaim buíochas le RTÉ as an gcomhoibriú leanúnach.

Tábla 6: Méadú ar líon na n-uaireanta craolta i nGaeilge de réir cainéil idir 2017 agus 2025.

Cainéal	2017	2021	2025
RTÉ One	85	117	206
RTÉ Two	7	80	272.5
RTÉjr	31	120	740
Cainéal RTÉ News	0	256	335.5
Iomlán Uaireanta Craolta	123	573	1,554

The following is a concise summary of the broadcast on RTÉ’s scheduling system, WON 1218.5 hours, the total number of clock hours broadcast on RTÉ ONE, RTÉ2 and RTÉjr by the end of the year. In addition, 307.5 hours of news and current affairs content and 28 hours of sports content were broadcast. The total Irish language output broadcast by RTÉ during the year 2025 was 1,554 hours.

In correspondence from RTÉ on 4 February 2026, a projection was provided showing the broadcasting hours in Irish that RTÉ envisages for 2026.

It is clear that the number of Irish-language broadcast hours on RTÉ television services has increased significantly year over year. I appreciate the ongoing data assurance and collaboration RTÉ has provided us with at regular intervals as we have carried out this audit over the past number of years.

The Office is continuously monitoring the percentage of hours rebroadcast by RTÉ in light of the total provision for programmes in Irish. This is also the case with regard to the number of hours broadcast in Irish during scheduled primetime.

Key findings

My Office has ongoing contact with RTÉ on this matter, and I thank RTÉ for the ongoing collaboration.

Table 6: Increase in the number of broadcast hours in Irish by channel between 2017 and 2025.

Channel	2017	2021	2025
RTÉ One	85	117	206
RTÉ Two	7	80	272.5
RTÉjr	31	120	740
RTÉ News channel	0	256	335.5
Total Broadcast Hours	123	573	1,554



CÚRSAÍ AIRGEADAIS

Cuireadh leithdháil €1,677,000 ar fáil don Oifig don bhliain 2025 agus tarraingíodh anuas €1,395,000 den bhuiséad sin.

Ullmhaíodh ráitis airgeadais na hOifige don bhliain 2025 d'iniúchadh an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste de réir fho-alt 8(2) den Dara Sceideal a ghabhann le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003. A luaithe agus is féidir tar éis an iniúchta, déanann an Coimisinéir Teanga cóip de na ráitis airgeadais sin, nó cibé sleachta as na ráitis airgeadais sin a shonróidh an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, mar aon le tuarascáil an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste maidir leis na cuntais, a chur i láthair an Aire. Leagann an tAire cóipeanna de na doiciméid sin faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais. Foilsítear ina dhiaidh sin ar shuíomh gréasáin Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga iad.

Íocaíochtaí Prasa

Tá dualgas ar eagraíochtaí stáit córais chuí a fheidhmiú ionas go n-íoctar sonraisc bhailí laistigh de 15 lá ón dáta a fhaightear iad. Tá dualgas ar eagraíochtaí stáit chomh maith tuairisc ráithiúil maidir le hÍocaíochtaí prasa a fhoilsiú ar a suíomh gréasáin.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

An allocation of €1,677,000 was provided to this Office for 2025 and €1,395,000 of that budget was drawn down.

The financial statements of the Office for 2025 have been prepared for audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General in accordance with subsection 8(2) of the Second Schedule to the Official Languages Act 2003. As soon as possible after the audit, a copy of those financial statements or of such extracts from those financial statements as the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht may specify shall be presented to the Minister together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the accounts. Copies of those documents shall be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas by the Minister. They will subsequently be published on the Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga website.

Prompt Payments

Public bodies are required to have appropriate systems in place to ensure that valid invoices are paid within 15 days from the date they are received. Public bodies are also required to publish a quarterly report on prompt payments on their website.

Tuairisc ar Íocaíochtaí Prasa Prompt Payments Report

Tréimhse Clúdaithe: 1 Eanáir – 31 Nollaig 2025 *Period Covered: 1 January – 31 December 2025*

Mionsonraí Details	Uimhir Number	Luach (€) Value (€)	Céatadán (%) de líon iomlán na n-íocaíochtaí a rinneadh Percentage (%) of total number of payments made
Líon na n-íocaíochtaí a rinneadh laistigh de 15 lá <i>Number of payments made within 15 days</i>	299	€396,108	100%
Líon na n-íocaíochtaí a rinneadh laistigh de thréimhse idir 16 lá agus 30 lá <i>Number of payments made within 16 days to 30 days</i>			
Líon na n-íocaíochtaí a rinneadh sa bhreis ar 30 lá <i>Number of payments made in excess of 30 days</i>			
Líon iomlán na n-íocaíochtaí sa tréimhse <i>Total number of payments made in the period</i>	299	€396,108	100%



FAISNÉIS CHORPARÁIDEACH

CORPORATE INFORMATION

Úsáid Fuinnimh

Tugtar an t-eolas seo a leanas i gcomhréir le forálacha I.R. 542 de 2009.

Forbhreathnú ar 2025

Is ionann an fuinnimh a úsáideann Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga ina iomláine i bhfoirgneamh na hOifige sa Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe agus leictreachas a úsáidtear chun an foirgneamh a théamh, uisce a théamh, agus soilse agus trealamh oifige a úsáid.

D'úsáid an Oifig 69,268MWH leictreachais le linn na bliana, laghdú 6.1% ar úsáid na bliana 2024 é sin. Turas fillte aerthaistil amháin a rinneadh in 2025, ar 514 km a bhí i gceist agus astaíochtaí CO₂ 0.082kg dá réir.

Gníomhartha a rinneadh in 2025

Leanadh de na cleachtais sheanbhunaithe chun úsáid fuinnimh a spáráil: féachtar chuige go múchtar fearais oifige nuair is cuí agus deimhnítear go mbíonn gach fearas is féidir múchta san oíche agus nuair nach mbítear san fhoirgneamh. Cuirtear úsáid fuinnimh san áireamh ina chritéar nuair a bhíonn trealamh leictreonach á roghnú don Oifig nó tairiscintí ar threalamh á meas. Rinneadh uasdátú ar an Mapa Bóthair um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide in 2025.

Leagtar amach sa Mhapa Bóthair um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide dul chun cinn a cuireadh i gcrích go dtí seo maidir le tionscadail ar cuireadh tús leo agus iarrachtaí atá ar bun chun spriocanna an phlean um ghníomhú ar son na haeráide a bhaint amach.

Chomh maith leis sin, chomhlánaigh an Oifig tairseach faireacháin agus tuairiscithe fuinnimh na hearnála poiblí do 2025 de chuid Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann, tairseach a dhéanann faireachán agus tuairisciú ar ár sonraí bliantúla

Energy Usage

The following information is provided in accordance with the provisions of S.I. 542 of 2009.

Overview of 2025

The use of electricity in the office building in An Spidéal, Co. Galway constitutes the total energy consumption of the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga including the heating and aeration of the building, water heating, lighting and the use of Office equipment.

The Office used 69,268MWH of electricity during the year, a decrease of 6.1% on 2024 consumption. Only one instance of air travel took place in 2025, a return trip which was a total of 514 km and resulted in 0.082kg of CO₂ emissions.

Actions taken in 2025

The established energy-saving practices were continued: ensuring that all equipment is turned off as appropriate and ensuring that lights and any equipment that can be switched off overnight and when the building is not occupied. Energy consumption is used as a criterion by the Office when choosing electronic equipment and in evaluating tenders for equipment. The Climate Action Road Map was updated in 2025.

The Climate Action Road Map sets out the progress to date on projects that have commenced and are underway to meet the targets of the climate action plan.

The Office also completed the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's public sector energy monitoring and reporting portal for 2025 which monitors and reports on our annual energy

maidir le húsáid fuinnimh, le tionscadail choigilte fuinnimh, atá le cur i bhfeidhm agus atá ar na bioráin, le clár na bhfoirgneamh, lena n-áirítear faisnéis faoi shuíomh, faoi chineál agus faoi mhéid ár bhfoirgneamh, le caiteachas bliantúil ar fhuinneamh, arna mhiondealú de réir cineál fuinnimh agus comhlíonadh an Treochláir um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide.

Gníomhartha atá beartaithe do 2026

Leanfar de na beartais choigilte fuinnimh a tionscnaíodh cheana féin. Déanfar monatóireacht rialta ar úsáid leictreachais i gcaitheamh na bliana 2026.

Nochtadh Cosanta

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga do 2025 i gcomhréir le halt 22(1) den Acht um Nochtadh Cosanta, 2014. Is í seo an deichiú Tuarascáil Bhliantúil um Nochtadh Cosanta ó Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga agus clúdaítear inti an tréimhse ón 1 Eanáir 2025 go dtí an 31 Nollaig 2025.

Faoi alt 22(1) den Acht um Nochtadh Cosanta, 2014, tá ar gach comhlacht poiblí tuarascáil bhliantúil a fhoilsiú ina sonraítear líon na nochtaí cosanta a fuarthas i gcomparáid leis an mbliain roimhe sin agus an gníomh a rinneadh (más ann dó).

Ní dhearnadh aon nochtadh cosanta le hOifig an Choimisinéara Teanga le linn na bliana 2025.

Dualgas na hEarnála Poiblí um Chomhionannas agus Cearta an Duine

Leagtar dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí faoin Acht faoi Choimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas, 2014 aird chuí a thabhairt ar shaincheistean a bhaineann le cearta an duine agus le comhionannas. Tá an Oifig seo ag glacadh cur chuige réamhghníomhach i ndáil leis an dualgas sin a chur i bhfeidhm.

Chun feasacht bhaill na heagraíochta a ardú, thug baill uile na foirne oiliúint rochtana ar líne chun críche. Cuirfear oiliúint ar fhostaithe nua de réir mar is gá.

consumption data, energy-saving projects, both implemented and planned, the building register, including location, type and size information for our building, annual expenditure on energy, broken down by energy type and compliance with Climate Action Mandate.

Actions planned for 2026

The energy-saving policies already initiated will continue. Electricity consumption will be monitored on a regular basis during 2026.

Protected Disclosure

Annual Report of the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga for 2025 in accordance with section 22(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014. This is the tenth Protected Disclosures Annual Report from the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga and it covers the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Under section 22(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, each public body is required to publish an annual report outlining the number of protected disclosures received in the preceding year and the action taken (if any).

No protected disclosures were made to the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga during 2025.

Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 places a duty on public bodies to have due regard to human rights and equality issues. This Office is adopting a proactive approach to implementing this obligation.

To increase awareness within the organisation, we ensured that all staff of the Office undertook access training online. Training shall be provided for new employees as required.

Nótaí *Notes*

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Nótaí Notes

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Nótaí *Notes*

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