



TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL ANNUAL REPORT

2017





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DON AIRE CULTÚIR, OIDHREACHTA AGUS GAELTACHTA:

De réir alt 30 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, tá an Tuarascáil seo don bhliain 2017 á cur i láthair ag an gCoimisinéir Teanga.

Rónán Ó Domhnaill
An Coimisinéir Teanga

Márta 2018

TO THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND THE GAELTACHT:

In accordance with section 30 of the Official Languages Act 2003, this Report for 2017 is being presented by An Coimisinéir Teanga.

Rónán Ó Domhnaill
An Coimisinéir Teanga

March 2018

RÁITEAS MISIN

“Ag cosaint cearta teanga”

Seirbhís neamhspleáach ar ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil i gcomhlíonadh ár ndualgas reachtúil le cinntiú go ndéanann an státhóras beart de réir a bhriathair maidir le cearta teanga.

Cothrom na Féinne a chinntiú do chách trí ghearáin maidir le deacrachtaí teacht ar sheirbhísí poiblí trí Ghaeilge 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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RÉAMHRÁ



Ar fhoilsiú thortháí an daonáirimh níos luaithe i mbliana fuair muid léargas réasúnta cuimsitheach ar staid na teanga in Éirinn faoi mar sheas sí i mí Aibreán 2016.

Léirionn na thortháí sin go bhfuil úsáid na Gaeilge seasmhach go maith lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht. Is amhlaidh a bhí cúrsaí maidir leis an tuiscint ghinearálta atá ag pobal na tíre ar an teanga. Faraor, is beag léas dóchais a bhain leis na thortháí céanna ó thaobh na Gaeltachta de. Tá sé follasach go bhfuil éigeandáil teanga sna ceantair Ghaeltachta agus is léir go bhfuil úsáid na Gaeilge mar theanga labhartha an phobail i mbaol, fiú sna ceantair is láidre Ghaeltachta. Ar an iomlán tháinig titim

11% ar líon na gcainteoirí laethúla Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht, lasmuigh den chóras oideachais, sna cúig bliana atá caite ó dhaonáireamh 2011.

**Daonáireamh
2016
TORTHAÍ**

Ní féidir na firicí a shéanadh agus in ainneoin na n-iarrachtaí móra agus dearfacha atá ar siúl i ngach pobal Gaeltachta chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn nil aon amhras orm ach go bhfuil níos mó ag teastáil ó thaobh thacaíocht agus bheartais an Stáit. Ar cheann de na beartais nach mór aghaidh a thabhairt air tá an stádas agus an luach atá ar an nGaeilge laistigh den tseirbhís phoiblí féin agus i i mbun seirbhíse sna ceantair Ghaeltachta. Le blianta fada tá teachtaireacht neamhbhalbh á fáil ag na pobail Ghaeltachta go gcaithfear, cé is moite de roinnt eisceachtaí, dul i muinín an Bhéarla más ann go bhfreastalófar ort mar is ceart.

Mar ghníomh praiticiúil amháin, chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar úsáid na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht, táim ag moladh, mar atá déanta agam roimhe seo, go mbeadh dualgas ar an Stát a chuid seirbhísí a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge sa Ghaeltacht agus go mbainfeadh dualgas de réir dlí leis an méid sin. Chuideodh a leithéid de bheart le teachtaireacht a thabhairt do lucht labhartha na Gaeilge go bhfuil luach ar an teanga agus ar na daoine a dteastaíonn uathu í a úsáid go saoráideach ina saol oibre agus ina saol pearsanta.

FOREWORD



The publication earlier this year of the census results provided a fairly comprehensive insight into the standing of the language in Ireland as of April 2016. These results show that

the use of Irish is fairly stable outside of the Gaeltacht. This was also the situation regarding the population's general understanding of the language. Unfortunately, the census results provided little comfort with regard to the Gaeltacht. It is evident that a linguistic emergency exists in the Gaeltacht districts and that the use of Irish as the spoken community language is under threat, even in the strongest Gaeltacht areas. There was an overall decline of 11% in the number of daily speakers of Irish in the Gaeltacht, outside the education system, in the five years since 2011.

**census
2016
RESULTS**

The facts cannot be denied and despite the valiant and positive efforts of every Gaeltacht community to promote the use of Irish, I am in no doubt that more is needed in terms of State support and policies. One of the policies that needs to be addressed is the status and value attached to Irish in the public service itself in relation to the services it provides in Gaeltacht areas. For many years Gaeltacht communities have received a blunt message that, barring a few exceptions, English must be used if a satisfactory level of service is to be obtained.

As one practical action, to address the use of Irish in the Gaeltacht, I propose, as I have done previously, that the State be obliged to provide its services in Irish in the Gaeltacht and that this obligation should have a legal basis. Such a move would give a message to Irish speakers that their language, and those who wish to use it easily in their working and personal lives, are valued.

OIFIG AN CHOIMISINÉARA TEANGA

Is mór agam an mhuinín atá léirithe ag pobal na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta in obair na hOifige seo, go mór mór iad siúd a dhéanann teagmháil linn faoi na deacrachtaí atá acu seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a fháil ón Stát. Is cuid lárnach d'obair na hOifige seo gearán a phiosrú agus táim sásta gur lean muid go tréan leis an obair sin i mbliana in iarracht na fadhbanna a bhíonn ag daoine a gcuid gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge leis an Stát a chur ina gceart.

Faraor, is léir freisin go bhfuil líon ard gearán ann nach féidir leis an Oifig seo a phiosrú go hiomlán. Tá dhá phriomhchúis leis seo: (1) níl aon dualgas díreach reachtúil leagtha síos in Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, ná daingnithe i scéim teanga, maidir leis an ngearán ábhartha, nó (2) ní thagann an comhlacht poiblí lena mbaineann an gearán faoi scáth an Acharta. Is deacair a thuiscint cén chuí nach bhfuil uasdátú déanta ar sceideal na gcomhlacthaí poiblí a thagann faoi scáth an Achta le os cionn 11 bliain, ach faraor is mar sin a sheas cúrsai ag deireadh na bliana seo.

Ba mhaith liom buiochas a ghabháil leis na comhlacthaí poiblí a rinne teagmháil linn i rith na bliana chun ár gcomhairle a lorg. Tarlaíonn sé go rialta, nuair a bhíonn tionscadal nua á bheartú ag comhlacht poiblí, go ndéantar teagmháil le m'Oifig roimh ré chun géillíúlacht do na dualgais reachtúla teanga a chinntíú. Is bealach ciallmhar agus éifeachtach é seo chun teacht roimh fhadhbanna a d'fhéadfadh teacht chun cinn ag tráth níos faide anonn. Molaim go láidir d'aon chomhlacht poiblí atá ag tabhairt faoi aon tionscadal nua, ar nós suíomh gréasáin nó córas nua idirghníomhach, mar shampla, dul i gcomhairle le m'Oifig roimh ré chun a chinntíú go bhfuil na hathruithe atá beartaithe ag comhlíonadh na ndualgas reachtúil atá orthu ó thaobh na Gaeilge de.

Bhí éileamh mór arís i mbliana ó chomhlacthaí poiblí ar sheisiúin eolais a chur ar fáil agus is cúis áthais dom nár eitigh m'Oifig aon iarratas a cuireadh faoinár mbráid in ainneoin nach bhfuil ach líon beag foirne ar fáil dúinn.

THE OFFICE OF AN COIMISINÉIR TEANGA

I am heartened by the confidence shown in the work of this Office by the Irish-speaking and Gaeltacht communities, especially those who contact us regarding their difficulties in accessing services from the State through Irish. Investigating complaints forms a central plank of this Office's activities and I am satisfied that we continued this work vigorously this year in an attempt to rectify the problems encountered by people wishing to conduct business with the State in Irish.

Unfortunately, it is also clear that there are many complaints that this Office cannot investigate fully. There are two primary reasons for this: (1) either no direct obligation is specified in the Official Languages Act or confirmed in a language scheme in relation to the relevant complaint, or (2) the public body concerned is not covered by the Act. It is difficult to understand why the schedule of public bodies covered by the Act has not been updated in over 11 years, but unfortunately this is how matters stood at the end of this year.

I would like to thank the public bodies that contacted us during the year seeking our advice. A regular occurrence when a new project is being planned by a public body is that my Office is contacted beforehand to ensure compliance with statutory language obligations. This is a sensible and effective means of preventing problems that could potentially arise at a later stage. I strongly recommend to any public body undertaking a new project, such as a new website or new interactive system, for example, to liaise with my Office beforehand to ensure their proposed changes comply with their statutory obligations in relation to the Irish language.

The past year saw a large demand once again from public bodies for information sessions and I am pleased that my Office did not refuse any such request despite the very small staff complement we enjoy.

TRÁCHTAIREACHT AR FHEIDHMIÚ AN ACHTA

Bhí foilsíú An Tráchtairacht ar Chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga ar cheann de na píosaí oibre ba shuntasai agus ba thábhachtaí a cuireadh i gcrích san Oifig i gcaitheamh na bliana seo. Céadaítear dom faoi Alt 20 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla tráchtairacht a fhoilsíú ar fheidhm phraiticiúil an Acharta agus is dá réir sin a d'fheidhmigh mé. B'in an chéad uair dom a leithéid a dhéanamh ó ceapadh mé i mo Choimisinéir Teanga beagnach ceithre bliana ó shin. Go deimhin, níor foilsíodh ach dhá thráchtairacht ó bunaíodh an Oifig.

Ba dhíol suntais torthaí na *Tráchtairachta*, a léirigh go bhfuil teipthe ar chóras na scéimeanna teanga cearta teanga an tsaoránaigh a chur chun cinn ar aon bhealach córasach nó cuimsitheach. Bhí tuiscint fhorleathan ann, sílim, go raibh deacrachtai móra leis an gcóras ach sholáthair an *Tráchtairacht*, ina ndearnadh anailís ghrinn ar gach uile scéim teanga a daingniodh le linn 2015 agus 2016, fianaise go raibh cál déanta ar ghealltanais in os cionn leath de na dara nó na trí scéimeanna teanga a aontáiodh, nach raibh post le riachtanas Gaeilge sainaitheanta ach i gcás 17.5% de na scéimeanna agus nach raibh dáta deimhnithe don Ghaeilge a bheith mar theanga oibre ach ag 11 de na 17 gcomhlacht phoiblí a mheastar a bhfuil oifigí in ionaid Ghaeltachta acu agus a bhfuil scéim teanga aontaithe leo.

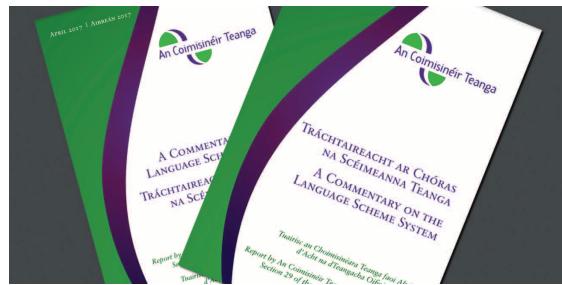
Creidim gur fiú go mór tabhairt faoina leithéid d'anailís neamhspleáach ar bhonn fianaise chun cioradh a dhéanamh ar eifeacht na mbeartas a fheidhmítar. Cé gur bhain an anailís seo go sonrach le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla is furasta a fhéiceáil go bhféadfaí a leithéid a dhéanamh i réimsí eile a bhaineann le cearta teanga agus táim den tuairim gur chóir an fhéidearthacht sin a scrúdú i gcomhthéacs cheannteidil Bhille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

COMMENTARY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT

The publication of the *Commentary on the System of Language Schemes* was one of the most significant and important pieces of work completed by this Office in the past year. Under Section 20 of the Official Languages Act, I am permitted to publish a commentary on the practical function of the Act and I acted accordingly. It was the first time I did so since my appointment as Coimisinéir Teanga almost four years ago. Indeed, only two such commentaries have been published since the foundation of the Office.

The results of the *Commentary* were quite significant, as they showed that the system of language schemes has failed to progress the language rights of citizens in a systematic or comprehensive manner. There was a widespread understanding, I believe, that the system had significant problems but the *Commentary*, which contained a precise analysis of all language schemes confirmed during 2015 and 2016, provided evidence that commitments had been rowed back on in over half of the second or third schemes agreed, that posts with an Irish language requirement had been identified in only 17.5% of the schemes and that a confirmation date for the use of Irish as a working language had been provided by only 11 of the 17 public bodies that are thought to operate offices in Gaeltacht locations, who also have an agreed language scheme.

I believe that independent evidence-based analysis of this kind is highly worthwhile in order to examine the effect of the policies being implemented. While this analysis related specifically to the Official Languages Act, it is obvious that such work could also be carried out in other areas relating to language rights and I think that this possibility should be looked at in the context of the heads of the Official Languages Bill.



CEANNTEDIL AN BHILLE

I mí Aibreáin a chuir mé torthaí na Tráchtairreachta faoi bhráid Bhuan-Chomhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus na nOileán agus an mhí ina dhiadh sin ghlac an Rialtas le ceannteidil nua chun leasú a dhéanamh ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. B'ábhar mór sásaimh dom gur glacadh leis an moladh uaim sa Tráchtairreacht go dtabharfaí isteach córas nua a bheadh bunaithe ar bhunchaighdeáin chomóntha maidir le soláthar seirbhísí stáit trí Ghaeilge, le teacht i gcomharbas ar chóras na scéimeanna teanga.

Chuir mé fáilte ghinearálta roimh fhoilsiú na gceannteideal ina n-iomláine. Tá sé mar cheann de na cuspóirí foriomlána go mbeidh 20% d'earcaigh nua sa tseirbhís phoiblí ina gcainteoirí Gaeilge agus dá gcuirfí i bhfeidhm é d'fhreagródh an fhoráil seo, mar thús, don chroiriachtanas maidir le soláthar seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge, is é sin dóthain daoine le Gaeilge a bheith fostaithe sa tseirbhís phoiblí. Tá sé tábhachtach anois go bhfoilseofaí agus go n-achtófaí Bille Leasaithe nua gan mhoill; tá siad siúd ar mian leo seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a fháil ón Stát ag fanacht rófhada le hAcht níos oiriúnaí dá fheidhm. Leis na ceannteidil seo tá deis ann faoi dheireadh an méid sin a chur ina cheart.

Le foilsiú an Bhille tá súil agam go bhforbrófar go cuimsitheach na bearta inmholtá atá luaite cheana féin agus go mbeidh amchlár soiléir ar fáil dùinn maidir lena bhfeidhmiú. Tá súil agam freisin go nglacfar leis an deis seo chun diospóireacht fholláin a bheith ann maidir leis na seirbhísí poiblí is ceart a bheith ar fáil trí Ghaeilge agus an tsúl is féidir an méid sin a bhaint amach. Is ceart go scrúdófaí gach mír de chuid an Bhille go cúramach agus go dtabharfaí aghaidh ar roinnt ábhar, ar nós an ceart a bhaineann le húsáid ainm / slóinne i nGaeilge agus seirbhísí a chuirtear ar fáil go hindíreach – ábhair nach bhfuil, i mo thuairimse, áirithe go críochnúil sna ceannteidil.

HEADS OF BILL

In April I laid the results of the *Commentary* before the Standing Joint Committee on the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands and during the following month the Government approved the new heads to amend the Official Languages Act. The acceptance of the recommendation contained in the *Commentary* to introduce a new system based on common standards regarding provision of state services in Irish, in succession to the system of language schemes, was a source of immense satisfaction to me.

I had a broad welcome for the publication of the heads overall. One of the overall objectives is that 20% of new recruits to the public service will be Irish speakers; if implemented, this provision would begin to address the central necessity regarding provision of services in Irish, namely the employment in the public service of sufficient numbers competent in Irish. It is important now that a new amending Bill be published and enacted forthwith; those seeking services through Irish from the State have waited long enough for an Act more fit for purpose. With these new heads an opportunity exists at last to rectify this situation.

With the publication of the Bill I expect the recommended actions that have already been outlined to be comprehensively developed and that a clear timetable will be provided for their implementation. I also hope that the opportunity will be grasped to have a healthy debate on the public services that ought to be available through Irish and how this can be achieved. Each part of the Bill should be carefully examined and some matters not covered fully, in my opinion, in the heads, such as the right to use one's name / surname in Irish and services that are provided indirectly, should be addressed.

Bille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2017

AN SCÉIM GHINEARÁLTA AGUS DRÉACHT CHINN AN BHILLE

GEARÁIN & FAIREACHÁN

I gcomhlionadh chúraimí na hOifige maidir le gearáin a fhiosrú bionn sé mar ábhar diomá nuair nach dtéann comhlachtaí poiblí áirithe i ngleic mar ba chóir leis na fiosruithe a chuirtear faoina mbráid. Den chuid is mó, bionn comhlachtaí stát sásta déileáil leis an Oifig ar bhonn gairmiúil agus eifeachtúil in iarracht gearáin a réiteach. Ach tá sé tugtha faoi deara agam i mbliana go bhfuil comhlachtaí eile ann a dhéanann neamhaird de chomhfhreagras ón Oifig seo nó a thugann freagraí ar ghearáin nach bhfuil ar aon bhealach sásúil. Ní bhíonn de rogha agam sna cásanna sin ach tabhaint faoi imscrúdú foirmiúil agus feicim go mbeidh orm tabhaint faoi sin níos minice an bhliaín seo chugainn má leanann roinnt comhlachtaí poiblí leis an gcleachtas sin.

Leanadh leis an bhfaireachán ar scéimeanna teanga i mbliana ach i bhfianaise thorthaí mo *Thráchtairreachta*, a laghad fiúntais atá le brath ar chuid mhaith de na gealltanais sna scéimeanna agus chinneadh an Rialtais deireadh a chur le córas na scéimeanna, tá socrú déanta agam gan aon fhaireachán díreach a dhéanamh ar scéimeanna teanga an bhliaín seo chugainn. Seachas sin, tá i gceist agam bealach nua a forbairt chun go gcomhlionfaí mo dhualgas reachtúil maidir le faireachán a dhéanamh ar fheidhmiú an Acharta.

CUMARSÁID & EILE

Is cúis onóra dom mar Choimisinéir Teanga deis a bheith agam casadh le grúpaí, eagraíochtaí agus daoine aonair a bhíonn ag obair ar son na teanga. Thug mé cuairt ar chuid mhaith ceantar agus labhair mé ag cuid mhaith ócáidí poiblí arís i mbliana, ina measc an Fhéile Ídirnáisiúnta Pan-Celtic Festival in Carlow, Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh in Rathfarnham and Diospóireachtaí an Phiarsaigh a d'eagraigh Gael Linn i mBaile Átha Luain chomh maith le labhairt ag Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin ar an gCeathrú Rua mar chuid de Lá Eorpach na dTeangacha.

Ba mhaith liom freisin mo bhúiochas a ghabháil leis na meáin chumarsáide as a ngairmiúlacht i gcónai agus iad ag plé liom agus an spéis atá léirithe acu in obair na hOifige.

COMPLAINTS & MONITORING

In carrying out the Office's responsibilities regarding investigation of complaints, it is often disappointing to learn that certain public bodies fail to adequately address the complaints made to them. For the most part, state bodies are happy to engage with the Office on a professional and effective basis in an attempt to resolve complaints. However, I have noticed this year that other public bodies ignore correspondence from this Office or respond to complaints in a very unsatisfactory manner. In these cases I am left with no option but to carry out a formal investigation and it appears I may have to recourse to that course of action more often next year if some public bodies continue with this approach.

The monitoring of language schemes continued this year but in light of the results of my *Commentary*, the lack of merit evident in many of the commitments contained in the schemes and the Government decision to end the system of schemes, I have decided not to carry out any direct monitoring of language schemes next year. Instead, I intend developing a new method of carrying out my statutory obligation to monitor compliance with the Act.

COMMUNICATIONS & OTHER MATTERS

It is an honour for me as Coimisinéir Teanga to have the opportunity to meet groups, organisations and individuals working in support of the language. I visited many areas and spoke at many public events again this year, including the International Pan-Celtic Festival in Carlow, Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh in Rathfarnham and Diospóireachtaí an Phiarsaigh held by Gael Linn in Athlone, as well as speaking at Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin in An Cheathrú Rua on European Day of Languages.

I'd also like to thank the media for their professionalism at all times in their dealings with me and for the interest they show in the work of the Office.

Táim an-bhuioch chomh maith den iriseoir Áine Ní Chiarán agus den saineolaí airgeadais Páidí Ó Dálaigh as bheith sásta oibriú leo go deonach mar bhaill de Choiste Inniúchóireachta Inmheánaí na hOifige. Is mór agam a gcuid comhairle stuama i gcónai.

Gabhairim buiochas faoi leith freisin leis an bhfoireann oibre atá ag tacú go láidir liom anseo in Oifig an Choimisiúna Teanga. Téann a gcuid diograíse agus dilseachta d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus d'Oifig an Choimisiúna Teanga go mór i bhfeidhm orm gach uile lá.

BLIAIN NA GAEILGE

Ar deireadh, ba mhaith liom ádh mór a ghuí orthu siúd ar fad atá páirteach i mBliain na Gaeilge. Nil aon dabht ach gur togra tairbheach é úsáid na Gaeilge a spreagadh i measc ár saoránach agus molaim an tacaíocht traspháirtí atá nochta do Bliain na Gaeilge agus Conradh na Gaeilge as a dúthracht. Tá sé tábhachtach go bhfágfaidh oidhreacht thairbheach tar éis Bliain na Gaeilge. An chaoi is fearr chun é seo a dhéanamh ná trí Acht Teanga nua a dhéanfadh níos éasca é, dóibh siúd ar mian leo é, a gcuid gnó a dhéanamh leis an Stát sa chéad teanga oifigiúil.

I'm very grateful also to journalist Áine Ní Chiarán and financial expert Páidí Ó Dálaigh for their continued willingness to work voluntarily as members of the Office's Internal Audit and Risk Committee. I greatly value their wise counsel at all times.

I also wish to thank most sincerely the staff who support me strongly here in the Office of An Coimisiún Teanga. Their diligence and dedication to the Official Languages Act and to the Office of An Coimisiún Teanga never fails to impress me.

BLIAIN NA GAEILGE

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone partaking in Bliain na Gaeilge all the best. It is no doubt a worthwhile project to promote the use of Irish amongst our citizens and I commend the cross-party support that is evident for Bliain na Gaeilge, and Conradh na Gaeilge for their commitment. It is important that Bliain na Gaeilge leave a lasting legacy. That can be best done with a strengthened Language Act that makes it easier, for those who wish to do so, to conduct their business with the State in its first official language.

2018
BLIAIN NA
Gaeilge

125
ATHBHEOCHAN

Gaeilge bheo
Irish belongs to us all

SEIRBHÍSÍ EOLAIS & CUMARSÁIDE

Le linn na bliana 2017, lean Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga d'eolas a scaipeadh ar an bpobal agus ar chomhlachtaí poiblí faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus faoi obair na hOifige féin.

COMHAIRLE DO CHOMHLACHTAÍ POIBLÍ

Ceann d'fheidhmeanna na hOifige seo is ea comhairle nó cúnamh a sholáthar do chomhlachtaí poiblí a thagann faoi scáth na reachtaíochta maidir lena ndualgais faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION SERVICES

During 2017, the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga continued to provide information to the public and to public bodies about the Official Languages Act and about the Office itself.

ADVICE TO PUBLIC BODIES

The functions of the Office include the provision of advice or assistance to public bodies coming under the aegis of the legislation with regard to their obligations under the Official Languages Act.



Rónán Ó Domhnaill, an Coimisinéir Teanga, ag bronnadh Theastas Gaelchultúr ar an Taoiseach, Leo de Varad, TD. Cr: Joanna Travers

An Coimisinéir Teanga, Rónán Ó Domhnaill, presenting An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, TD with his Gaelchultúr Certificate. Cr: Joanna Travers



Antaine Ó Coileáin, Príomhfheidhmeannach Gael Linn agus Rónán Ó Domhnaill, an Coimisinéir Teanga, ag bronnadh an choirn ar bhuaitteoirí Chomórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh – Craobh na hÉireann, 2017 (sinsir), Coláiste Pobail Átha Luain. Cr: Gael Linn (Seán Ó Mainnín)

Antaine Ó Coileáin, Príomhfheidhmeannach Gael Linn and Rónán Ó Domhnaill, An Coimisinéir Teanga, presenting the cup to the winners of Comórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh – Craobh na hÉireann, 2017 (senior), Athlone Community College. Cr: Gael Linn (Seán Ó Mainnín)

Le linn na bliana 2017, rinne oifigigh ó chomhlachtaí poiblí teagmhál le hOifig an Choimisinéara Teanga ar 122 ócáid éagsúil le ceistíteanna sonracha nó le comhairle a fháil maidir le dualgais teanga faoin Acht. Titim 29% é seo ar lion na n-iarratas in 2016. Bhain thart ar 47% de na fiosrúcháin sin leis na dualgais atá ar chomhlachtaí poiblí maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla ar chomharthaíocht, i stáiseanóireacht agus i bhfogairtí taifeadta béis, 24% le ceistíteanna maidir le scéimeanna teanga, 6% le ceistíteanna maidir le foilsíú doiciméad go dátheangach de réir alt 10 den Acht, agus 23% le ceistíteanna eile i dtaca le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

I rith na bliana freastalaíodh ar roinnt ócáidí a bhí eagraithe ag comhlachtaí poiblí agus roinneadh eolas leo maidir leis na dualgais atá orthu faoin Acht. Chomh maith leis sin, freastalaíodh ar iarratais a rinne comhlachtaí poiblí ar chruinnithe aonaracha chun comhairle a ghlacadh i dtaca le dualgais shonracha faoin Acht.

During 2017, officials from public bodies contacted the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga on 122 separate occasions either with specific questions or seeking advice about their obligations under the Act. This represents a 29% decrease on the number of queries in 2016. Approximately 47% of these queries concerned advice on the duties of public bodies with regard to the use of the Irish and English languages on signage, stationery and recorded oral announcements, 24% concerned language schemes, 6% the publication of documents bilingually under section 10 of the Act and 23% concerned other matters to do with the Act.

During the year we attended a number of events organised by public bodies and information was provided regarding the obligations placed on them by the Act. We also accommodated requests made by individual public bodies to attend meetings in order for them to receive advice on specific obligations under the Act.



An tAire Stáit, Joe Mc Hugh, TD; Ard-Mhéara Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath, Mícheál Mac Donncha; Rónán Ó Domhnaill, an Coimisinéir Teanga; agus baill de choiste Chumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge – Ailish Bhreathnach, Máire Seo Breathnach, Roibeard Ó hEartáin agus Seán Ó Daimhín. Cr. Sasha Tuke

Minister of State Joe McHugh, TD; Lord Mayor of the City of Dublin, Mícheál Mac Donncha; An Coimisinéir Teanga, Rónán Ó Domhnaill; and committee members of Cumann Forbartha na nOifigeach Gaeilge – Ailish Bhreathnach, Máire Seo Breathnach, Roibeard Ó hEartáin and Seán Ó Daimhín. Cr. Sasha Tuke

ÓCÁIDÍ POIBLÍ

Bhí mé an-bhuioch glacadh le cuirí ó eagraíochtaí pobail agus ó phorais eile freastal ar ócáidí poiblí éagsúla i rith na bliana. Is deis a bhí sna hócáidí sin léargas a thabhairt ar obair na hOifige agus plé poiblí a dhéanamh ar fheidhmiú an Achta, cearta teanga an tsaoránaigh agus ábhair ghaolmhara eile. Cuirim fáilte mhór roimh an deis labhairt leis an bpobal agus le grúpaí ar spéis leo cúrsai cearta teanga agus a dtuairimí a fháil ar an ábhar. I measc na n-imeachtaí ag ar thug mé cur i láthair bhi:

- Cruinniú de chuid Bhuan-Chomhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus na nOileán.
- Bronnadh Ghraíam Gaelchultúr, Teach an Ard-Mhéara, Baile Átha Cliath.
- Oireachtas na Samhna i gCill Airne, Co. Chiarrai.
- Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh, Ráth Fearnáin.
- Díospóireachtaí an Phiarsaigh, eagraithe ag Gael Linn i mBaile Átha Luain.

PUBLIC EVENTS

I was very grateful to accept invitations from community organisations and other bodies to attend public events. These events were an opportunity to provide an insight into the work undertaken by the Office, the language rights of citizens and other related matters. I welcome the opportunity to speak with the public and with groups that have an interest in language rights and to get their opinions on the matter. I made a presentation at the following events, amongst others:

- Meeting of the Standing Joint Committee on the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands.
- Presentation of Gaelchultúr awards, Mansion House, Dublin.
- Oireachtas na Samhna, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
- Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh, Rathfarnham.
- Díospóireacht an Phiarsaigh, Athlone, organised by Gael Linn.



An Coimisinéir Teanga, Rónán Ó Domhnaill, ag labhairt ag Lá na dTeangacha i Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin ar an gCeathrú Rua. Cr. Sean Ó Mainnín

Rónán Ó Domhnaill, An Coimisinéir Teanga, speaking at Languages Day in Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, An Cheathrú Rua. Cr. Sean Ó Mainnín

- An Fhéile Idirnáisiúnta Pan-Cheilteach, eagraithe ag Oireachtas na Gaeilge i gCeatharlach.
- Comhdháil Chumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, Baile Átha Cliath.
- Lá Eorpach na dTeangacha, Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, an Cheathrú Rua.

NA MEÁIN CHUMARSÁIDE

Fearacht blianta eile bhí cuid mhaith teagmhála agam leis na meáin chumarsáide le linn na bliana 2017. Déanaim gach iarracht freastal ar iarratais ó na meáin Ghaeilge agus ó na meáin Bhéarla agus creidim go bhfuil sé tábhachtach léargas a thabhairt ar obair na hOifige, ar fheidhmiú an Acharta agus ar cheisteanna gaolmhara.

Glacaim buiochas leis na hiriseoirí ar fad a chuir an oiread sin suime in obair na hOifige le linn na bliana agus a chabhraigh le cur chun cinn na hoibre sin trína gcuid tuairisceoirreachta i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge.

- The International Pan-Celtic Festival, Carlow, organised by Oireachtas na Gaeilge.
- Annual Conference of Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, Dublin.
- European Day of Languages, Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, An Cheathrú Rua.

MEDIA

As in previous years, I had a considerable amount of contact with the media during 2017. I make every effort to accommodate requests from the Irish language media and the English language media as I believe that it is very important to provide an insight into the work of the Office, the implementation of the Act, and related matters.

I would like to thank all the journalists who showed such an interest in the work of the Office during the year and who helped to progress that work through their reports both in English and Irish.

CUMANN IDIRNÁISIÚNTA NA gCOIMISINÉIRÍ TEANGA

Is ball gníomhach í m’Oifig de Chumann Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga, cumann a bunaíodh anseo in Éirinn le linn comhdháil a d’eagraigh mo réamhtheachtaí Seán Ó Cuirreáin i mBaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 2013. Tá an Cumann ag dul ó neart go neart agus 11 Choimisinéir Teanga ina mbaill faoin tráth seo. Tá cainteanna ar siúl le roinnt Coimisinéirí agus eagraíochtaí eile maidir le ballraiocht nó ballraiocht chomhlach. Ceapadh mé i mo Chathaoirleach ar an gCumann don bhliain seo chugainn agus dá bhri sin beidh ról rúnaiochta an Chumainn á chomhlionadh ag m’Oifig chomh maith. Rinneadh roinnt ullmhúcháin chuige sin i rith na bliana.

Cruthaíonn an Cumann Idirnáisiúnta gréasán luachmhar inar féidir le Coimisinéirí Teanga léargas a fháil ar na bealaí a ndéileáiltear le cúrsai cearta teanga agus soláthar seirbhísí i dteangacha oifigiúla i ndlínsí éagsúla ar fud an domhain. Chomh maith leis sin, feidhmíonn an Cumann mar ghréasán foghlama, ní hamhán do na Coimisinéirí féin, ach freisin do na hoifigigh a bhíonn bainteach leis an réimse seo sna tiortha éagsúla. Rinneadh breis forbartha ar an gcuid seo den obair le linn na bliana 2017 agus baineadh úsáid as an teicneolaíocht chun seisíúin oiliúna ar líne, ar ábhair éagsúla, a sholáthar ó bhaill den Chumann agus ó láithreoirí seachtracha. Is i bhfoirm fisachomhdháil ar líne a thionóltar na cruinnithe rialta de chuid Chumann Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga.

Eagraitear comhdháil bhliantúil de chuid an Chumainn i gceann de thíortha éagsúla na mballeagraíochtaí agus ba in Caerdydd na Breataine Bige a eagraíodh comhdháil 2017. D’fhreastail mé féin agus beirt bhall fairne ar an ócáid, rud a thug deis dúinn plé a dhéanamh lenár gcomhghleacaithe i ndlínsí eile agus foghlaim uathu. Tugann an chomhdháil lucht cleachtais agus lucht acadúil le

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE COMMISSIONERS

My Office is an active member of the International Association of Language Commissioners, an association formed in Ireland during an international conference organised by my predecessor Seán Ó Cuirreáin in Dublin in 2013. The Association is going from strength to strength with 11 Commissioners currently as members. Talks are taking place with a number of other Commissioners or organisations in relation to membership or associate membership. I was appointed as Chairperson of the Association for the coming year, and my Office will also therefore have a secretarial role. Some preparation in this regard was completed during the current year.

The Association creates a valuable network where Language Commissioners can get an insight as to how language rights and the provision of services in official languages are dealt with in other jurisdictions around the world. The Association also operates as a learning network, not only for the Commissioners, but also for the staff working in this area in the various countries. This area of work was further developed during 2017, making use of technology to provide on-line training sessions on various topics by members of the Association and by external presenters. The regular meetings of the International Association of Language Commissioners are held by way of on-line video conferencing.

An annual conference of the Association is held in one of the members’ countries and the 2017 conference was held in Cardiff in Wales. Two staff members and myself attended the Conference, which gave us an opportunity to hold discussions with our colleagues from other jurisdictions and to learn from them. The conference brings together both practitioners



Baill Chumann Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga ag a gCruinniú Cinn Bhliana le linn na Comhdhála sa Bhreatain Bheag, Bealtaine 2017. Cr: Coimisinéir Teanga na Breataine Bige

Members of the International Association of Language Commissioners at their AGM during the Conference in Wales, May 2017. Cr: Coimisinéir Teanga na Breataine Bige

chéile chun plé a dhéanamh ar théamaí a bhaineann le cúrsái cearta teanga agus ábhair ghaolmhara. Is roimh thús oifigiúil na comhdhála a reáchtáladh cruinniú cinn bhliana an Chumainn.

Tionólfar comhdháil na bliana 2018 sa Chosaiv.

CUMANN NA nOMBUDSMAN

Ceapadh i mo Chathaoirleach mé i 2017 ar Fhóram Ombudsman na hÉireann, fochoiste de chuid Chumann na nOmbudsman – cumann de na hOifigi Ombudsman ar fad in Éirinn agus sa Bhreatain Mhór, a bhfuil an Oifig seo ina ball gníomhach de chomh maith. Bhí cruinniú den Fhóram againn i m’Oifig ar an Spidéal le linn na bliana, agus d’fhreastail 6 Ombudsman de chuid na hÉireann agus baill foirne dá gcuid ar an ócáid.

and academics to discuss language rights and related matters. The Association’s annual meeting was held before the official commencement of the conference.

The 2018 conference will be held in Kosovo.

OMBUDSMAN ASSOCIATION

I was appointed Chairperson of the Irish Ombudsman Forum in 2017 also. The Forum is a subcommittee of the Ombudsman Association, an Association of all the Ombudsman Offices in Ireland and the United Kingdom, and of which the Office is an active member. A meeting of the Forum was held in my office in An Spidéal during the year, which was attended by 6 Ombudsman and some of their staff.

FAIREACHÁN

SCÉIMEANNA TEANGA

Le linn na bliana 2017 dhírigh an Oifig a hiarracht faireacháin, den chuid is mó, ar chur i bhfeidhm scéimeanna teanga ag comhlacthaí poiblí. Scrúdáiodh 17 scéim teanga agus ar an iomlán ba léir dúinn go raibh comhlacthaí poiblí ag cloí leis na gealltanais a bhí tugtha acu ina scéimeanna teanga. Bhain 11 de na hiniúchtaí a rinneamar leis an gcéad scéim teanga, cúig cinn le hiniúchadh ar an dara scéim teanga agus ceann amháin le hiniúchadh ar an triú scéim teanga.

Mar a léiríodh sa tráchtairreacht ar fheidhmiú an Acharta a d'fhoilsigh mé le linn na bliana, tá laigí ollmhóra ag baint le córas na scéimeanna. Baineann siad seo le caighdeán na ngealltanais, easpa gluaiseachta chun cinn ó scéim go scéim agus cúnú nó teorannú ar an méid a bhíonn geallta. Fágtaí go minic gur beag dúshlán a bhaineann le cur i bhfeidhm scéimeanna áirithe má tharlaíonn go mbíonn gach a bhfuil geallta réasúnta furasta le baint amach. Ar ndóigh, is ceart a athint freisin go mbíonn roinnt scéimeanna teanga ar chaighdeán níos airde agus go mbíonn fiúntas agus tairbhe leis na seirbhísí breise a gheallann comhlacthaí poiblí a chuirfidh siad ar fáil trí Ghaeilge sna cásanna sin.

Faoi réir cheannteidil Bhille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2017 moltar go gcuirfí deireadh ar fad le córas na scéimeanna teanga agus go dtabharfaí córas caighdeán isteach ina áit. Fanfaidh córas na scéimeanna teanga i bhfeidhm nó go mbeidh bri reachtúil tugtha do na moltaí sin.

Nuair atáthar ag féachaint ar thosaíochtaí faireacháin na bliana is gá an méid seo ar fad a áireamh agus go háirithe an bhéim is ceart a leagan ar iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar scéimeanna teanga. Cé gur leanadh le múnlá faireacháin na mblianta roimhe sin sa bhliain reatha, táthar den tuairim anois go mbeadh sé níos fiúntaí tabhairt faoi chóras faireacháin nach bhfuil scéimeanna teanga ina lá.

Leagfar níos mó béime feasta ar iniúchadh a bheidh bunaithe ar théamaí a áireoidh meascán de scéimeanna teanga, rialacháin agus dualgais dhireacha faoin Acht seachas faireachán atá bunaithe go príomha ar scéimeanna teanga.

MONITORING

LANGUAGE SCHEMES

During 2017 the Office focused its monitoring effort, for the most part, on the implementation of language schemes by public bodies. 17 language schemes were examined and overall we were satisfied that public bodies were complying with the commitments provided in their language schemes. 11 of the audits that we conducted related to first language schemes, 5 of the audits related to second language schemes and 1 of the audits related to a third language scheme.

As demonstrated in the commentary on the operation of the Act which I published during the year, there are significant weaknesses associated with the system of languages schemes. These have to do with the quality of the commitments, the lack of progress from one scheme to another and the regression and qualification of commitments. It is often the case that the implementation of a language scheme poses very few challenges where the commitments given are reasonably easy to achieve. Of course, it must also be recognised that some schemes are of a higher standard and in such instances the provision of additional services through Irish are of value and worthwhile.

It is recommended in the heads of the Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2017 to discontinue entirely the language scheme system and to replace it with a system of standards. The language scheme system will continue to operate until such time as legislative effect is given to those recommendations.

All of this and most especially the emphasis to be placed on the audit of language schemes must be considered when the annual monitoring priorities are being set. Although I adopted the same approach to monitoring in the current year as we had done in previous years, I am now of the view that it would be more worthwhile undertaking a monitoring process not revolving around language schemes.

In future, greater emphasis will be placed on thematic audits that incorporate a combination of language scheme commitments, regulations and direct provisions under the Act rather than monitoring based primarily on language schemes.

SCÉIMEANNA TEANGA

SCÉIMEANNA DAINGNITHE

Dhaingnigh an tAire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta aon chéadscéim déag teanga, sé dhara scéim teanga, cúig thriú scéim teanga agus dhá cheathrú scéim teanga le linn na bliana 2017. Faoi dheireadh na bliana bhí 127 scéim teanga daingnithe agus á gcur i bhfeidhm. Tá liosta de na comhlachtaí poiblí a bhfuil scéim teanga daingnithe ag an Aire leo le fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na hOifige – www.coimisineir.ie.

Bliain inar daingniodh an chéad Scéim Teanga *Year in which first Language Scheme was confirmed*

Bliain / Year	Scéimeanna / Schemes
2004	1
2005	22
2006	18
2007	29
2008	15
2009	15
2010	5
2011	0
2012	3
2013	4
2014	6
2015	9
2016	8
2017	11
	146
Scéimeanna dimholta / Schemes superseded	2
Scéimeanna as feidhm / Lapsed schemes	17
Iomlán / Total	127

LANGUAGE SCHEMES

CONFIRMED SCHEMES

The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht confirmed eleven new language schemes, six second language schemes, five third language schemes and two fourth language schemes during 2017. By the end of the year, 127 language schemes were confirmed and being implemented. A list of public bodies with language schemes confirmed by the Minister is available on this Office's website – www.coimisineir.ie.

Léirmheasanna/Iniúchtaí Críochnaithe *Reviews/Audits Completed*

Bliain / Year	Scéimeanna / Schemes
2006	9
2007	25
2008	42
2009	39
2010	33
2011	29
2012	21
2013	15
2014	22
2015	17
2016	12
2017	17
Iomlán / Total	281

SCÉIMEANNA IN ÉAG

Bhí 63 scéim teanga, as 127 san ionlán, imithe in éag faoi dheireadh na bliana 2017. In éagmás scéim teanga nua a bheith aontaithe ag na comhlachtaí poiblí, ní raibh aon dualgas orthu na seirbhísí a chuirtear ar fáil don phobal trí Ghaeilge a threisiú.

DRÉACHTSCÉIMEANNA

Ag deireadh na bliana 2017, bhí 119 dréachtscéim teanga fós le daingniú ag an Aire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

- 48 céad-dréachtscéim
- 41 dara dréachtscéim
- 24 tríú dréachtscéim
- 6 cheathrú dréachtscéim

Tá os cionn cúig bliana ann ó iarradh ar 49 de na comhlachtaí poiblí sin scéim a ullmhú agus os cionn deich mbliana i gcás cúig cinn díobh.

SCHEMES EXPIRED

Of the 127 language schemes, 63 had expired by year-end 2017. This meant that, in the absence of a new language scheme, no additional commitments in relation to improved services in Irish were required of those public bodies.

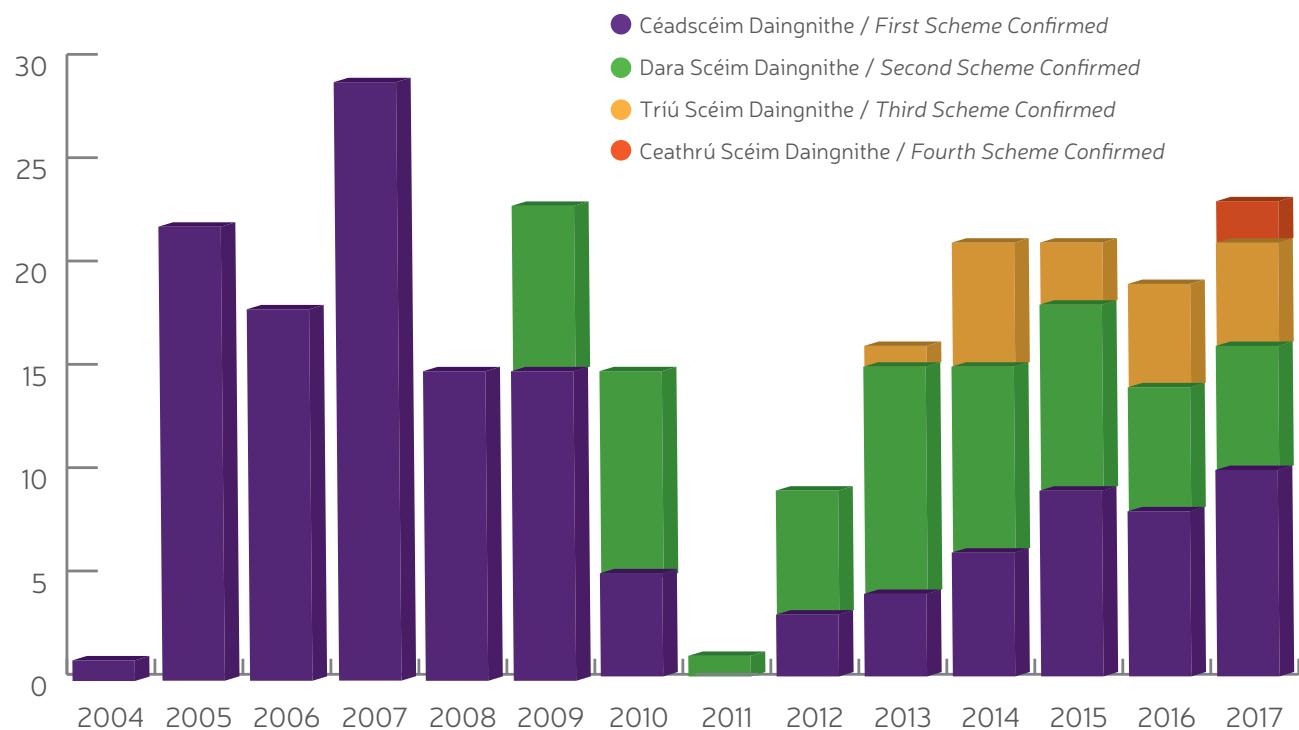
DRAFT SCHEMES

By the end of 2017, 119 draft language schemes remained to be confirmed by the Minister for Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.

- 48 first draft schemes
- 41 second draft schemes
- 24 third draft schemes
- 6 fourth draft schemes

More than five years have elapsed since 49 of these public bodies were asked to prepare a scheme and more than ten years in the case of five of these public bodies.

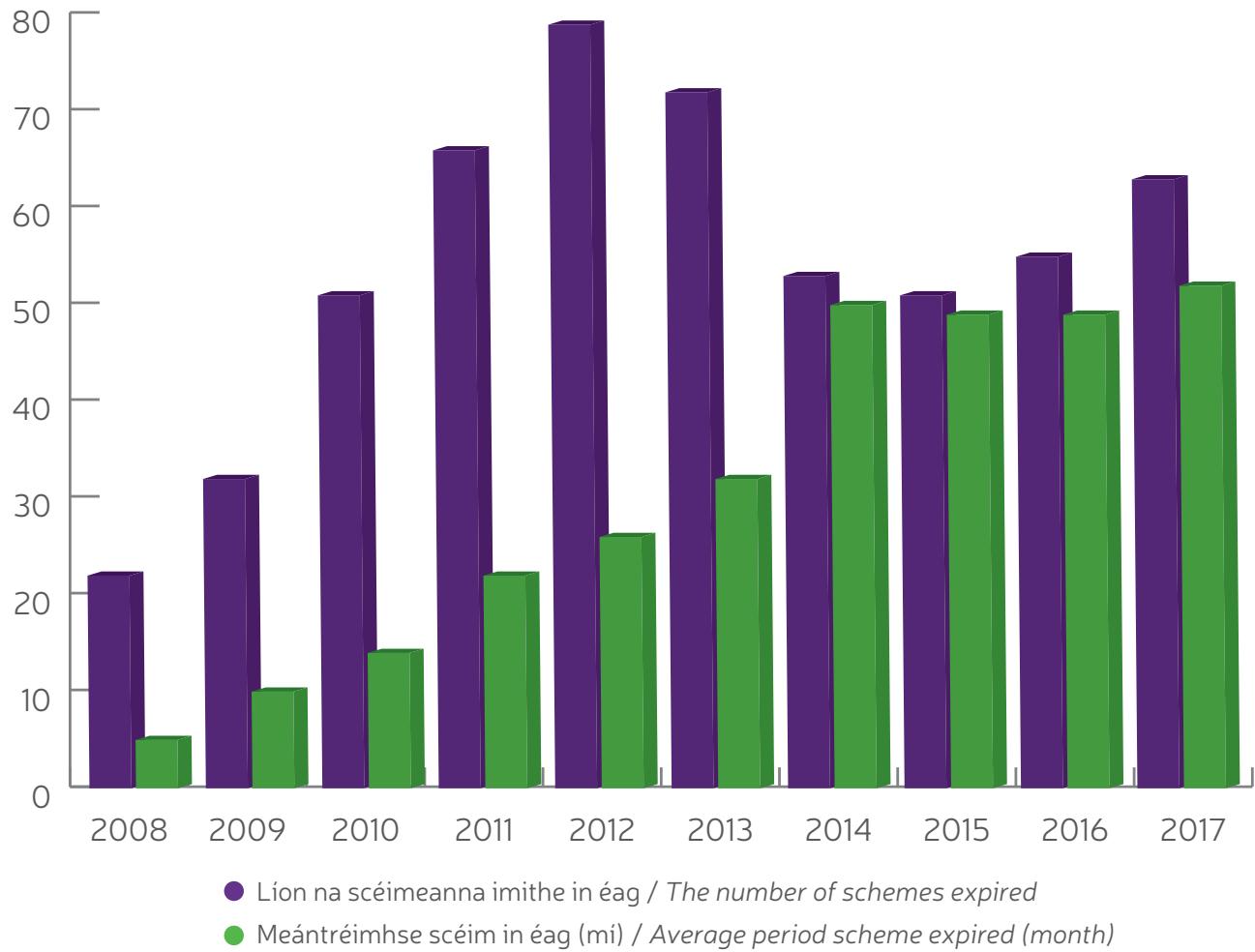
Scéimeanna Daingnithe ag an Aire / Schemes Confirmed by the Minister



Tá eolas breise maidir leis na scéimeanna teanga daingnithe agus le hiarratais ar dhréachtscéimeanna a ullmhú le fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin Oifig an Choimisiún Teanga ag www.coimisineir.ie

Additional information regarding confirmed language schemes and requests to prepare language schemes is available on the website of the Office of An Coimisiún Teanga at www.coimisineir.ie

Scéimeanna imithe in éag / Schemes expired



Líon na scéimeanna in éag de réir a dtréimhse in éag The number of schemes expired by the period since they expired



GEARÁIN

Fearacht blianta roimhe seo, fuarthas comhréiteach ar chuid mhór de na gearáin a rinneadh le m'Ofig tríd an gcóras neamhfhoirmiúil réitithe gearán a fheidhmíonn m'Ofig nó trí chomhairle a chur ar fáil do ghearánaigh. Is mór agam an comhoibriú a fuair m'Ofig le déileáil le cásanna ar an mbealach sin. Tá réimse na ngearán fairsing agus ilghnéitheach, agus braitheann an cur chuige atá de dhíth go mór ar dhearcadh an chomhlachta phoiblí lena mbaineann sé. Bionn comhoibriú maith le fáil go hiondúil ó fhormhór na gcomhlachtaí poiblí.

Tá achoimre ar na cásanna nár réitiódh tríd an gcóras neamhfhoirmiúil réitithe gearán agus inar criochnaíodh imscrúduithe foirmiúla ina leith sa chaibidil den Tuarascáil dar teideal "Imscrúduithe".

Is ceart a rá nár bhain na gearáin ar fad chun na hOifige le linn na bliana le sárú ar dhualgais reachtúla faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 agus mar a bhí amhlaidh blianta eile, bhain cuid diobh le deacraíochtaí agus fadhbanna níos ginearálta a bhain le gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge le heagraíochtaí stáit.

Is ó Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath is mó a tháinig na gearáin ach tháinig lín suntasach freisin ó chontaetha Chill Chainnigh, na Gaillimhe, Chiarraí agus Dhún na nGall. Dála na bliana anuraidh, tháinig tuairim agus an cúigiú cuid diobh ón nGaeltacht.

Tháinig íslíú ar líon na gceisteanna a d'ardaigh daoine den phobal in 2017 i gcomparáid leis an mbliain roimhe sin, ó 768 in 2016 go dtí 638 in 2017. I measc na nithe a ndearnadh gearán fúthu, bhain an chuid ba lionmhaire diobh arís le cur i bhfeidhm gealltanás a thug comhlachtaí poiblí faoi scéimeanna reachtúla teanga a aontaíodh faoi alt 11 den Acht. Bhain cuid mhór gearán in 2017 arís le húsáid na Gaeilge ar chomharthaíocht agus ar stáiseanóireacht comhlachtaí poiblí, i gcomhréir leis na Rialacháin faoi fho-alt 9(1) den Acht. Baineann céatadán suntasach de na gearáin, chomh maith, le forálacha d'achtacháin eile a bhaineann le stádas nó le húsáid na Gaeilge. Ar ndóigh, baineann na gearáin maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge ar chomharthaí

COMPLAINTS

As happened in previous years, most of the complaints made to my Office were resolved through the informal complaints resolution mechanism operated by my Office or through providing advice to the complainants. I am grateful for the cooperation my Office received in dealing with cases in that way. The range of complaints is wide and varied and the amount of time and effort required often depends on the attitude of the public body concerned. Public bodies are, for the most part, quite cooperative.

Summaries of cases that were not resolved in this manner and in respect of which formal investigations were completed are provided in the chapter of this Report entitled "Investigations".

It should be noted that not all complaints received during the year referred to breaches of statutory obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003, and as was the case in previous years, some related to more general difficulties and problems experienced by those attempting to conduct their business through Irish with state organisations.

The majority of the complaints came from County Dublin, but a substantial number were also received from Counties Kilkenny, Galway, Kerry and Donegal. As was the case last year, approximately one fifth of complaints came from within the Gaeltacht.

There was a decrease in the number of issues raised by members of the public in 2017 compared to the previous year, from 768 in 2016 to 638 in 2017. Amongst the issues complained about, the largest number of complaints once more related to the implementation of commitments made by public bodies in statutory language schemes agreed under section 11 of the Act. Many of the complaints again in 2017 related to the use of Irish on public bodies' signage and stationery, in accordance with the Regulations under subsection 9(1) of the Act. A substantial percentage of complaints related also to the provisions of other enactments concerning the status or use of Irish. Of course, complaints

tráchta leis an réimse seo chomh maith, ach léirítear an figiúr sin go hiondúil mar fhigiúr neamhspleáach sna staitisticí anseo thíos. Is sa *Lámhleabhar do Chomharthai Tráchta* a leagtar síos na dualgais atá ar na húdarás bóithre i leith úsáid na Gaeilge ar chomharthai tráchta.

Tá líon agus céatadán na ngearán i dtaca le freagraí i mBéarla ar chomhfhereagras i nGaeilge fós measartha ard i bhfianaise an fhoráil seo a bheith i bhfeidhm ó 2004 agus í a bheith ar cheann de na forálacha is bunúsai de chuid an Achta.

relating to the use of Irish on road signs belong by right to this category, but this is generally provided as an independent figure in the statistics below. The obligations on roads authorities in respect of road traffic signage are set out in the *Traffic Signs Manual*.

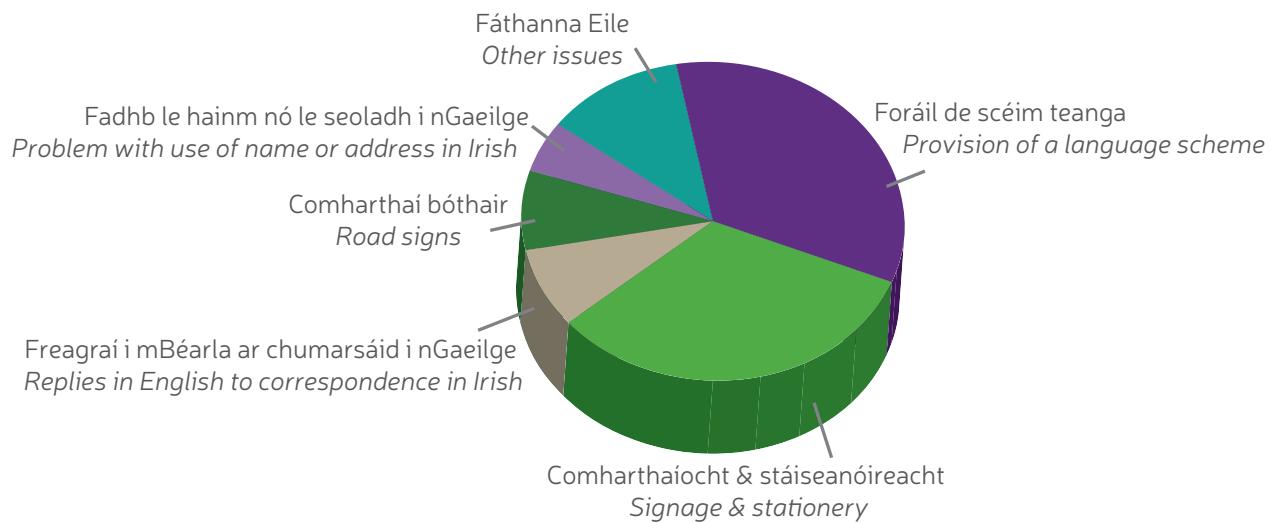
The number and percentage of complaints regarding replies in English to correspondence in Irish is still reasonably high in light of the fact that this provision has been in place since 2004 and is one of the most fundamental provisions of the Act.

Gearáin: Deacrachtaí agus Fadhbanna – Staitisticí *Complaints: Difficulties and Problems – Statistics*

Gearáin le linn 2017 / <i>Complaints during 2017</i>	2016	2017
Gearáin / <i>Complaints</i>	362	345
Comhairle tugtha / <i>Advice given</i>	406	293
Iomlán	768	638

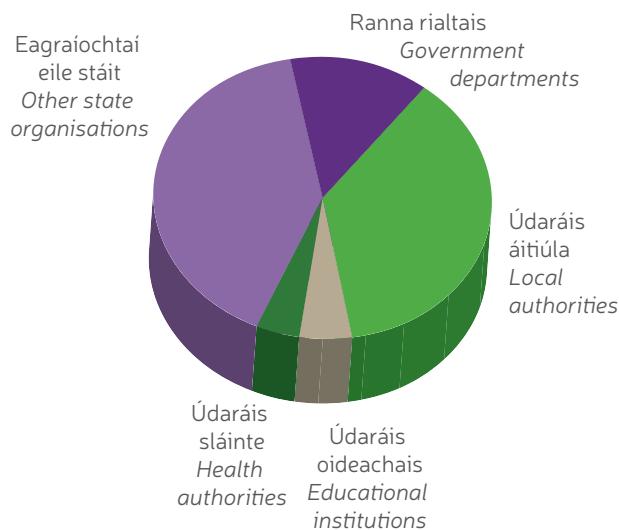
Céatadán na ngearán de réir cineáil
Percentage of complaints by type

	2016	2017
Foráil de scéim teanga (san áireamh: cártáí aitheantais, suíomhanna gréasáin agus foirmeacha)	32.8%	33.9%
<i>Provision of a language scheme (including identity cards, websites and forms)</i>		
Easpa Gaeilge ar chomharthaíocht & stáiseanóireacht	27.6%	32.8%
<i>Lack of Irish on signage and stationery</i>		
Freagraí i mBéarla ar chumarsáid i nGaeilge	7.6%	8.2%
<i>Replies in English to correspondence in Irish</i>		
Easpa Gaeilge ar chomharthaí bóthair	11.2%	8.0%
<i>Lack of Irish on road signs</i>		
Fadhb le hainm nó le seoladh i nGaeilge	8.2%	5.3%
<i>Problem with use of name and/or address in Irish</i>		
Achtacháin eile a bhaineann le stádas nó le húsáid na Gaeilge	2.1%	2.0%
<i>Other enactments relating to the use or status of Irish</i>		
Bileoga nó ciorcláin i mBéarla amháin	0.5%	1.4%
<i>Leaflets or circulars in English only</i>		
Foilsíú doiciméad áirithe	1.8%	1.1%
<i>Publication of certain documents</i>		
Eile (cúiseanna aonair)	8.2%	7.3%
<i>Other (individual issues)</i>		
IOMLÁN / TOTAL	100%	100%



Gearáin de réir cineál comhlachta phoiblí Complaints by type of public body

	2016	2017
Ranna & oifigí rialtais <i>Government departments & offices</i>	10.5%	13.6%
Údaráis áitiúla <i>Local authorities</i>	40.9%	36.8%
Údaráis oideachais <i>Education authorities</i>	3.0%	4.9%
Údaráis sláinte <i>Health authorities</i>	3.0%	4.3%
Eagraíochtaí eile stáit <i>Other state organisations</i>	42.6%	40.4%
IOMLÁN / TOTAL	100%	100%



Gearáin: an Ghaeltacht agus lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht

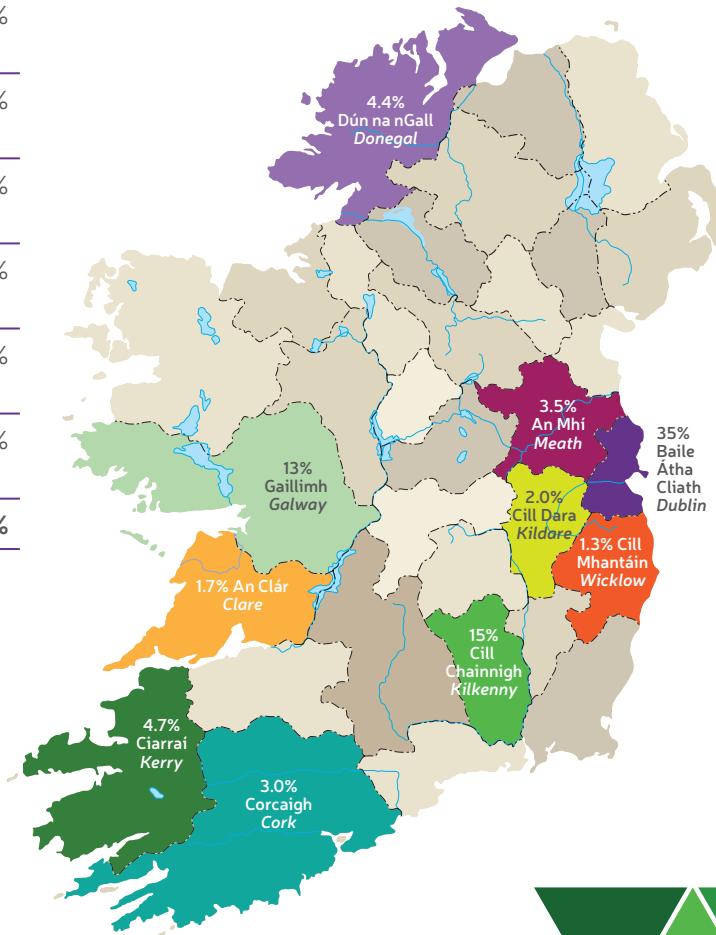
Complaints: Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht

	2016	2017
An Ghaeltacht <i>Gaeltacht</i>	19%	22%
Lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht <i>Non-Gaeltacht</i>	81%	78%
IOMLÁN / TOTAL	100%	100%



Gearán de réir contae Complaints by county

	2016	2017
Baile Átha Cliath <i>Dublin</i>	45.0%	35.0%
Cill Chainnigh <i>Kilkenny</i>	9.0%	15.0%
Gaillimh <i>Galway</i>	12.0%	13.0%
Ciarrai <i>Kerry</i>	2.9%	4.7%
Dún na nGall <i>Donegal</i>	4.2%	4.4%
An Mhí <i>Meath</i>	3.0%	3.5%
Corcaigh <i>Cork</i>	2.6%	3.0%
Cill Dara <i>Kildare</i>	2.0%	2.0%
An Clár <i>Clare</i>	1.1%	1.7%
Cill Mhantáin <i>Wicklow</i>	1.6%	1.3%
Lasmuigh den dlínse <i>Outside the jurisdiction</i>	1.3%	1.0%
Eile <i>Other</i>	15.3%	15.4%
IOMLÁN / TOTAL	100%	100%



SAMPLAÍ DE GHEARÁIN A FIOSRAÍODH IN 2017

Chun léargas a thabhairt ar fheidhmiú an chórais neamhfhoirmiúil fiosraithe gearán, tugtar anseo roinnt samplaí de ghearáin éagsúla a rinneadh agus ar eirigh linn réiteach a fháil orthu le comhoibriú na gcomhlacthaí poiblí chun sástacht na ngearánach:

AINM I nGAEILGE AR PHAS

Rinne duine teagmháil le m'Oifig toisc gur dhiúltaih an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála dá iarratas a ainm a chur i nGaeilge ar a phas. Bhí a ainm i mBéarla ar an bpas a bhí á athnuachan aige ach ba i nGaeilge a bhí a ainm ar an bpas a bhí aige roimhe sin.

Faoi alt 10(3) d'Acht na bPasanna, is faoin Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála atá sé sonrú a dhéanamh ar an bhfianaise is gá a chur ar fáil ionas go ndéanfaí "ainm nua", lena n-áirítear ainm a athrú ó Bhéarla go Gaeilge, nó ó Ghaeilge go Béarla, a thaifeadadh ar an bpas.

Rinne m'Oifig idirghabháil leis an Roinn ar son an ghearánaigh agus eisíodh pas nua dó lena ainm i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla air ("aka"), socrú a bhí chun a shásachta.

GNÍOMHAIRE THAR CEANN COMHLACHT POIBLÍ



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

Chuir Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe toghairm chúirte chuig duine. D'iarr sé an toghairm i nGaeilge ón gComhairle agus fuair sé í sin. Nuair a scriobh dlíodóir, a bhí ag feidhmiú thar ceann na Comhairle Cathrach, litir i mBéarla chuíge ina dhiaidh sin faoin ábhar, rinne an duine sin teagmháil le m'Oifig.

EXAMPLES OF COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED IN 2017

In order to provide an insight into the operation of the informal complaints resolution mechanism, a number of examples are provided of the various complaints made and the resolutions that were arrived at with the cooperation of the public bodies concerned and to the satisfaction of the complainants.

NAME IN IRISH ON PASSPORT

A person contacted my Office because the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade had refused his application to have the Irish version of his name put on his passport. The English version of his name appeared on the passport he was renewing but the Irish version of his name had appeared on his previous passport.

Under Section 10(3) of the Passports Act, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade may determine the necessary evidence to be provided so that a "new name", including a change of name from English to Irish, or from Irish to English may be recorded on the passport.

My Office intervened with the Department on behalf of the complainant and a new passport was issued to him with his name appearing in both Irish and English ("aka"); the complainant was satisfied with this resolution.

AGENT ON BEHALF OF A PUBLIC BODY



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

A person received a court summons from Galway City Council. He requested the summons in Irish from the Council and received this. When a solicitor, acting on behalf of the City Council, afterwards wrote a letter in English to him in relation to the matter, the person contacted my Office.

Chuir m'Ofiig ar a súile don Chomhairle go raibh gealltanas sa Scéim Teanga go ndéanfai comhfheagras i nGaeilge le haon duine a thugann le fios go mb'fhearr leis nó léi é sin. Gealladh, chomh maith, go gcloifeadh aon tríú páirtí atá ag feidhmíú thar ceann na Comhairle leis na dualgais teanga a bhí ar an gComhairle féin faoin Acht.

Ghlac an Chomhairle leis go ndearnadh earráid, ghabh an dlíodóir leithscéal leis an ngearánach agus chuir sé an comhfheagras ábhartha ar fáil dó as Gaeilge.

GAEILGE I DTITHE AN OIREACHTAIS

Rinne duine gearán liom toisc nár cuireadh ateangaireacht chomhúaineach ar fáil nuair a rinne sé láithriú i nGaeilge os comhair comhchoiste de chuid an Oireachtas. Bhraith sé gur chuir sé sin faoi mhíbhuntáiste é má bhí daoine ag an gcuinniú nár bhí fhéidir leo an méid a dúirt sé a thuiscint.

Ó tharla go ndeimhnítear san Acht an ceart ag aon duine Gaeilge nó Béarla a labhairt agus é nó í ag láithriú os comhair comhchoiste de chuid an Oireachtas, tharraing m'Ofiig an cheist anuas le Seirbhís Thithe an Oireachtas.

D'aontaigh an tSeirbhís go n-áirítear sa cheart reachtúil an dualgas seirbhís ateangaireachta a chur ar fáil ionas go dtuigfear an té a láithrónn i nGaeilge. Tar éis an cás a scrúdú, chinn an tSeirbhís go gcuirfi mir ghairid feasta sa chuireadh a eisitear chuig finnitéithe chun teacht i láthair coiste chun a mhiniú go bhfuil fáilte roimh Ghaeilge a úsáid agus go gcuideodh sé leis na socruithe praiticiúla dá mb'fhéidir cur in iúl roimh ré go mb'fhearr leis an bhfinn Gaeilge a labhairt. Ina theannta sin, chuir an tSeirbhís in iúl go raibh sé beartaithe saoráidí breise ateangaireachta a chur ar fáil sna seomraí cruinnithe mar chuid d'athchóiriú a bhí idir lámha ar na seomraí cruinnithe.



My Office advised the Council that its Language Scheme contained a commitment that correspondence would be conducted through Irish with any person indicating he or she so wished. It was also undertaken that any third party acting on behalf of the authority would comply with the language obligations that the Act placed on the Council itself.

The Council accepted that an error had occurred, the solicitor apologised to the complainant and he sent him the relevant correspondence in Irish.

IRISH IN THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

A person made a complaint to me because simultaneous interpreting had not been provided when he made a presentation in Irish before a Joint Committee of the Oireachtas. He felt that this placed him at a disadvantage if people were present at the meeting who could not understand what he had to say.

Since the Act confirms the right of any person to speak in Irish or in English when appearing before a joint committee of the Oireachtas, my Office raised the matter with the Houses of the Oireachtas Service.

The Service concurred that the statutory right includes the obligation to provide an interpreting service so that a person presenting in Irish is understood. After examining the case, the Houses of the Oireachtas Service decided that invitations issued to witnesses to attend before a committee would henceforth include a note explaining that the use of Irish was welcome and that an indication beforehand from the witness that he/she intended to speak in Irish would assist with the practical arrangements. Furthermore, the Service conveyed that additional interpreting facilities were planned for the meeting rooms as part of a refurbishment of those rooms currently under way.



CORA POIST

Fuair duine bileog i mBéarla amháin ó Chomhairle Contae

Loch Garman chun a chomhairliú do dhaoine nár mhór dóibh a bheith ar chlár na dtoghthóirí dá mbeidís ag iarraidh vótáil i dtoghchán nó i reifreann.

De réir an Acharta, ní mór cumarsáid i scribhinn a dhéantar leis an bpobal i gcoitinne nó aicme den phobal i gcoitinne a dhéanamh i nGaeilge nó i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla.

Tar éis do m'Oifig an gearán a tharraingt anuas leis an gComhairle Contae, dearadh bileog nua dhéthaobhach ar a raibh an fhaisnéis i nGaeilge ar thaobh amháin agus i mBéarla ar an taobh eile.

FOILSEACHÁN ROINNE

Rinneadh gearán le m'Oifig nuair a d'fhoilsigh an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil an Plean Náisiúnta Maolúcháin i mBéarla amháin. Bhí gealltanás i Scéim Teanga na Roinne go bhfoilseofaí doiciméid, ar ráitis mhóra bheartais iad, go dáttheangach.

Nuair a fiosraiodh an cheist seo leis an Roinn, foilsíodh leagan Gaeilge den phlean agus deimhniodh gurb ionann doiciméad a fhoilsíú go dáttheangach agus fáil a bheith ar an leagan Gaeilge agus ar an leagan Béarla go comhuaineach.

FREAGRAÍ AR RÍOMHPHOIST

Scriobh duine ríomhphost chug Oifig na nOibreacá Poiblí ag iarraidh foilseachán a cheannach. Sa fhereagra a fuair sé, iarradh air a theachtaireacht a athscríobh i mBéarla. Mhínigh an comhfhereagraí do OOP go raibh dlite orthu comhfhereagras i nGaeilge a fhereagairt i nGaeilge. Nuair a fuair sé freagra measáinistrithe, a bhí dothuigthe, ina dhiaidh sin ón gcomhlacht poiblí rinne sé gearán liom.



MAIL SHOTS

A person received a leaflet in English only from Wexford County

Council advising people that they had to be included on the Register of Electors if they wished to vote in an election or a referendum.

In accordance with the Act, communication with the public in general or a class of the public in general, must be made in Irish or in Irish and in English.

After my Office had raised the matter with the County Council, a new two-sided leaflet was designed with the information in Irish on one side and in English on the other.

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS

A complaint was made to my Office following the publication in English only of the National Mitigation Plan by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The Department's Language Scheme contained a commitment that documents which constituted major policy statements would be published bilingually.



When the Department was queried on this issue, an Irish version of the plan was published and it was confirmed that bilingual publication of a document means the Irish version and the English version being available simultaneously.

EMAIL RESPONSE

A person wrote an email to the Office of Public Works seeking to purchase a publication. In the response he received, he was asked to rewrite his message in English. The correspondent explained to OPW that it was obliged to respond in Irish to correspondence in Irish. When he then received an unintelligible machine-translated response from the public body, he made a complaint to me.



Tharraing m'Ofiigse an cás anuas le OOP agus sa fhreagra a fuarthas deimhníodh go n-eisítear fógraí chuig na baill foirne go minic chun iad a chur ar an eolas faoina n-oibleagáidi faoin Acht agus faoi na hacmhainní atá ar fáil chun cuidiú le haistriúcháin. Deimhníodh freisin gur gabhadh leithscéal leis an ngearánach agus gur tairgeadh cóip den fhoilseachán a bhí á iarraidh aige saor in aisce dó.

COMÓRTAS EARCAÍOCHTA

Chuir gearánach isteach ar chomórtas earcaíochta do phost sa Státseirbhís, agus tamall gairid roimh an agallamh, iarradh air a curriculum vitae a aistriú ó Ghaeilge go Béarla i gcomhair an bhoird agallaimh.

D'fhiosraigh m'Ofiig an cheist leis an tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí. Gabhadh leithscéal leis an ngearánach as ar tharla agus deimhníodh nár chóir go n-iarrfaí ar an iarrthóir an CV a aistriú agus gurbh é beartas na hoifige sin seirbhís a chur ar fáil as Gaeilge dá custaiméirí an oiread agus is féidir.

RAIFTEARAÍ AN FILE

Déantar gearán le m'Ofiig go minic faoi chomharthaí atá i mBéarla amháin ach ba dhiol suntais é an comhartha a bhí i mBéarla amháin ar bhóthar an R446 i gCo. na Gaillimhe chuig uaigh an fhile iomráitigh Antaine Ó Raiftearaí (1779-1835), duine de na filí Gaeilge is mó le rá. Cheap an gearánach gur mhasla a bhí sa chomhartha seo do thraigisiún na nGael.

Nuair a d'ardaigh m'Ofiig an cheist le Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe, bhain sí an comhartha Béarla sin anuas agus chuir sí comhartha dátheangach in airde ina áit. B'ábhar mór sásaimh don ghearánach é sin agus mhaigh sé go mbeadh taibhse an fhile féin faoi chomaoin againn!



My Office raised the matter with the OPW and in the response received it was confirmed that staff are regularly appraised of their obligations under the Act and of the resources available to assist with translation. It was also confirmed that the complainant had received an apology and had been offered a copy of the publication he had requested, free of charge.

RECRUITMENT COMPETITION

A complainant entered a recruitment competition for a post in the Civil Service and, shortly before the interview, he was asked to translate his curriculum vitae from Irish to English for the interview board.



My Office queried the issue with the Public Appointments Service. The complainant received an apology for the incident and it was confirmed that the candidate should not have been asked to translate the CV and that it was the policy of that office to offer a service through Irish to its customers as far as possible.

RAFTERY THE POET

My Office regularly receives complaints in relation to signage in English only but the sign in English only on the R446 in Co. Galway pointing in the direction of the grave of Anthony Raftery (1779-1835), one of the most famous Irish language poets ever, was particularly noteworthy. The complainant thought that this sign was an affront to the Gaelic tradition.



When my Office raised the issue with Galway County Council, it removed the English language sign and replaced it with a bilingual sign. The complainant was very pleased with this outcome and claimed that even the poet's ghost would be indebted to us!

IMSCRÚDUITHE

Is é atá i gceist le himscrúdú ná fiosrúchán oifigiúil a sheoltar ar bhonn foirmiúil reachtúil de réir na bhforálacha atá in Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Tá an t-údarás agus na cumhachtai cúi chuige seo tugtha dom mar Choimisinéir Teanga faoin Acht.

Is próiseas foirmiúil é an córas imscrúdaithe a thógann cuid mhaith ama agus acmhainní ar an gcomhlacht poiblí a bhíonn i gceist agus ar m'Ofigse.

Líon na nImscrúduithe	2016	2017
Tugtha ar aghaidh ón mbliain roimhe	2	1
Imscrúduithe seolta	5	8
Iomlán idir láimha	7	9
Tugtha ar aghaidh go dtí an chéad bliain eile	1	3
Iomlán críochnaithe / scortha	6	6

Tugtar achoimre sa Tuarascáil seo ar na ceithre imscrúdú a críochnaíodh le linn na bliana. Is ceart a thuiscint go soiléir nach bhfuil sna hachoirí seo ar na himscrúduithe ach cuntais ghairide ar chásanna. Is sna tuarascálacha oifigiúla atá na tuairisci údarásacha ar na himscrúduithe.

Rinneadh cinneadh scor d'imscrúduithe a bhain le gealltanais scéime i dtaca le suíomh gréasáin de chuid dhá chomhlacht phoiblí – an Roinn Sláinte agus Bord Soláthair an Leictreachais – nuair a cuireadh na gealltanais sin i bhfeidhm go cui.

INVESTIGATIONS

An investigation is an official enquiry carried out on a formal statutory basis in accordance with the provisions of the Official Languages Act. As Coimisinéir Teanga, I have been given the relevant authority and powers in this regard under the Act.

The investigation process is a formal procedure, the completion of which requires a substantial amount of time and resources from both the public body concerned and my Office.

Number of Investigations	2016	2017
Brought forward from previous year	2	1
Investigations launched	5	8
Total in hand	7	9
Brought forward to next year	1	3
Total completed / discontinued	6	6

This Report contains a summary of the four investigations completed during the year. It should be clearly understood that these summaries of investigations are merely condensed accounts of cases. The authoritative accounts of investigations are contained in the official reports.

It was decided to discontinue investigations which concerned scheme commitments in respect of websites in the case of two separate public bodies – the Department of Health and ESB – when the scheme commitments were appropriately fulfilled.



ACHOIMRÍ AR IMSCRÚDUITHE 2017

AN ROIÑN OIDEACHAIS AGUS SCILEANNA

In imscrúdú a rinne mé ar an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna tháinig mé ar chinneadh gur sáraíodh forálacha den Acht Oideachais, 1998 nuair nár áiríodh riachtanais reachtúla teanga an Acharta go cuí sa phróiseas a bhain le ceapadh pátrún do bhunscoil nua a bhí le bunú i gceantar pleánala scoile Dhroim Conrach/Marino/Bhaile Átha Cliath 1.

Sa bhliain 2016 rinneadh roinnt gearán le m'Ofiig i dtaca le cinneadh an Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna gan pátrúnacht do scoil ilchreidmheach lán-Ghaeilge a bhronnadh do bhunscoil a bhí le bunú sa cheantar lúaite. Thug na gearánaigh le fios go raibh tuismitheoirí 361 dalta tar éis a léiriú go mba rogha leo oideachas lán-Ghaeilge a bheith ar fáil dá gclann i scoil a d'fheidhmeodh de réir éiteas ilchreidmheach.

In ainneoin nach bhfuil aon fhoráil dhíreach san Acht Oideachais a bhaineann le soláthar oideachais lán-Ghaeilge, tá cuspóirí sonracha ann a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge agus leis an nGaeltacht. Tá sé mar riachtanas go mbeadh gach uile dhuine atá bainteach leis an Acht airdeallach ar na cuspóirí sin.

Chuir mé an t-ábhar gearáin a bhí faigte agam faoi bhráid na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna agus mé ag leanúint an phróisis neamhfhoirmiúil imscrúdaithe a fheidhmíonn m'Ofiig. Nuair nár éirigh leis an bpróiseas sin teacht ar thoradh sásúil chinn mé go mba ghá imscrúdú foirmiúil a thionscnamh chun a fháil amach an bhféadfadhl go raibh an próiseas nó na socruithe a bhain le ceapadh pátrún bunscoile ag teacht le cuspóirí teanga an Acharta Oideachais.

Chonacthas dom go raibh dhá chuspóir de chuid an Acharta a d'fhéadfadhl a bheith ábhartha don imscrúdú seo. Bhain siad sin le (1) réadú beartas agus cuspóirí náisiúnta i ndáil le leathadh an dátheangachais i sochaí na hÉireann agus go háirithe an cuspóir go mbainfí tuilleadh úsáide as an nGaeilge ar scoil agus sa phobal. Chomh maith leis sin (2) tá sé mar



SUMMARIES OF 2017 INVESTIGATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS

In an investigation I carried out on the Department of Education and Skills, I concluded that provisions of the Education Act 1998 had been contravened when no appropriate account was taken of statutory language requirements in the process that pertained to the appointment of a patron to a new primary school which was to be established in the school planning area of Drumcondra/Marino/Dublin 1.

A number of complaints were made to my Office in 2016 in respect of the decision of the Minister for Education and Skills not to award patronage for an all-Irish multi-denominational school to be established in the area. The complainants advised that the parents of 361 students had demonstrated their preference that all-Irish education be available for their family in a multi-denominational school.

Despite the fact that there is no direct provision in the Education Act that pertains to the provision of all-Irish education, specific objectives are set out in the Act in respect of the Irish language and the Gaeltacht. It is a requirement that every person concerned in the implementation of the Act have regard to those objectives.

I raised the complaint I had received with the Department of Education and Skills, in line with the informal investigative procedure which my Office operates. When that process did not achieve a satisfactory resolution, I decided that it was necessary to instigate a formal investigation to establish whether or not the process or the arrangements for the appointment of a school patron were in line with the language objectives of the Education Act.

It appeared to me that there were two objectives of the Act which could be relevant to this investigation. These concerned (1) contributing to the realisation of national policy and objectives in relation to the extension of bilingualism in Irish society and in particular the achievement of a greater use of the Irish language at school and in the community. It



chuspóir ag an Acht go gcuirfí riachtanais teanga agus chultúrtha mac léinn chun cinn ag féachaint do roghanna a dtuismitheoirí.

Ina freagra ar an imscrúdú, shéan an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna go raibh aon sárú á dhéanamh aici ar chuspóiri teanga an Achta. Mhinigh an Roinn gur leasaíodh an próiseas a bhain le haitheantas a thabhairt do bhunscoil sa bhliain 2011. Faoi réir na socruithe atá i bhfeidhmanois is i ndiaidh anailís dhéimeagrafach a shocraitear na ceantair scoile ina mbunófar bunscoil nua. Tar éis fógra a bheith déanta maidir le bunú scoile nua iarrtar ar phátrún iarratas a dhéanamh chun bheith aitheanta mar phátrún ar an scoil nua, más spéis leo sin a dhéanamh. Tá grúpa neamhspleách bunaithe ag an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, an Grúpa um Bunú Scoileanna Nua (GBSN), chun maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar an bpróiseas agus chun comhairle a chur ar an Aire maidir leis an bpátrún ba chóir a cheapadh. Tugadh le fios don imscrúdú gur bunaíodh 22 bunscoil nua ó theacht i bhfeidhm an chórais seo agus is scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge ceithre cinn diobh sin.

Chuir an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna cuid mhaith ábhar tacaiochta ar fáil dom le linn an imscrúdaithe. I measc an ábhair sin bhí téarmaí tagartha nó na critéir mheasúnaithe a fheidhmionn GBSN. Ba léir dom nach raibh aon tagairt shonrach déanta do riachtanais Ghaeilge ná do na dualgais reachtúla a bhí ábhartha sna critéir sin. Díritear sna critéir go háirithe ar (a) critéir thíreolaiochta, (b) critéir uimhríochta agus (c) éagsúlacht éiteas.

Mhaigh an Roinn gur bhain an focal ‘éagsúlacht’ sna critéir le héagsúlacht éiteas agus teangacha araon agus go ndéantar soláthar do rogha tuismitheoirí sa dá chás sa phróiseas pátrúnachta. Dá mb' amhlaídh a bhí an cás ní fhaca mé aon chúis nach mbeadh an méid sin luaite go soiléir. Go deimhin, le linn an imscrúdaithe dheimhnigh an Roinn go raibh sí chun an próiseas iarratais a leasú feasta chun rogha teanga teagaisc tuismitheoirí a áireamh ar bhealach níos cuimsithí. Dúradh linn go gcuirfí mír san fhoirm iarratais chun deis a thabhairt do thuismitheoirí a mian a noctadach maidir lena rogha teanga.

is also (2) an objective of the Act to promote the linguistic and cultural needs of students having regard to the choices of their parents.

In its response, the Department of Education and Skills denied that it was committing any breach of the Act's language objectives. The Department explained that the process for giving recognition to a primary school was amended in 2011. Under the arrangements that are now in place, the area in which a new primary school is to be established is set following demographic analysis. Patrons are asked to apply to be recognised as patron of the new school, if they so wish, subsequent to the establishment of the new school being announced. The Department of Education and Skills has set up a new independent group, the New Schools Establishment Group (NSEG), to supervise the process and to advise the Minister as to which patron should be appointed. The investigation was advised that 22 new primary schools, of which four were all-Irish schools, had been established since the system came into effect.

The Department of Education and Skills supplied me with supporting material during the investigation. The terms of reference or assessment criteria which are utilised by the NSEG formed part of that material. It was apparent to me that no specific reference had been made to Irish language requirements, or the statutory obligations that pertain to them, in those criteria. The criteria are aimed specifically at (a) geographical criteria (b) numerical criteria and (c) diversity of ethos.

The Department maintained that the word “diversity” in the criteria referred to both ethos and linguistic diversity and that provision is made for parental choice in both instances in the patronage process. If that were the case, I saw no reason why that would not be stated clearly. Indeed, during the investigation, the Department confirmed that it was to amend the process in the future to include the parental choice of language more comprehensively. We were advised that a section would be added to the application form to give parents the opportunity to express their wish regarding choice of language.

I gcás an cheantair a bhí faoi chaibidil, dheimhnigh an Roinn go raibh 361 mac léinn sa cheantar pleánala scoile a roghnaigh oideachas ilchreidmheach lán-Ghaeilge faoi phátrúnacht an Fhorais Pátrúnachta, le hais 622 a roghnaigh oideachas ilchreidmheach faoi scáth phátrúnacht Ag Foghlaim le Chéile. Dúirt an Roinn go raibh trí scoil lán-Ghaeilge sa cheantar feidhme ábhartha agus go raibh dóthain soláthair don Ghaeloideachas ann, in ainneoin gur scoileanna Caitliceacha a bhí iontu ar fad. Ní miste a shoiléiriú gur scoil ilchreidmheach a bhí á moladh ag an bhForas Pátrúnachta.

Chuir mé spéis freisin sa chonclúid ar ar tháinig GBSN, ina tuarascáil chuig an Aire, go raibh éileamh suntasach léirithe ag an bhForas Pátrúnachta ar an oideachas lán-Ghaeilge sa cheantar. Go deimhin, thagair Cathaoirleach GBSN don mhéid seo ina litir chuig an Aire agus mhol sé go gcoimeádfaí an t-éileamh faoi athbhreithniú i gcomhthéacs anailís dhéimeagrafach sa todhchai. Mar sin féin, moladh an pátrúnacht a bhronnadh ar Ag Foghlaim le Chéile de thoradh leibhéal nios airde éilimh a bheith léirithe acu dá múnla siadsan.

Tar éis dom cás na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna a mheá go cúramach chinn mé nach raibh forálacha teanga an Achtá, chomh fada agus a bhain sé le riachtanais teanga agus chultúrtha mac léinn a chur chun cinn ag féachaint do roghanna a dtuismitheoirí, comhlíonta go cuí sa phróiseas a feidhmíodh chun pátrún a cheapadh.

Mheas mé freisin nach raibh an cur chuige a bhí in úsáid ag an Roinn ag teacht le réadú bheartais an Stáit i leith leathadh an dátheangachais sa tsochaí. Tá na beartais sin le fail sa Ráiteas i leith na Gaeilge a d'fhoilsigh Rialtas na hÉireann sa bhliain 2006 agus sa Straitéis 20 Blíain don Ghaeilge a foilsíodh sa bhliain 2010. Tá cuspóirí na mbeartas sin thar bheith soileir maidir le forbairt an oideachais lán-Ghaeilge. Sa chás seo bhí 361 dalta a roghnaigh go mba mhian leo oideachas lán-Ghaeilge a fháil i scoil le héiteas

In relation to the area in question, the Department confirmed that there were 361 students in the school planning area who chose all-Irish multi-denominational education under the patronage of An Foras Pátrúnachta, as opposed to 622 who chose multi-denominational education under the patronage of Educate Together. The Department stated that there were 3 all-Irish schools in the relevant functional area and that there was a sufficient supply of Irish language education in the area, despite the fact that they were all Catholic schools. It should be clarified that An Foras Pátrúnachta were recommending a multi-denominational school.

I was also interested in the conclusion reached by the NSEG, in its report to the Minister, that An Foras Pátrúnachta had illustrated a significant demand for all-Irish education in the area. Indeed, the Chairperson of the NSEG referred to this in his letter to the Minister and he recommended that the demand be kept under review in the context of future demographic analysis. It was recommended, however, that the patronage be awarded to Educate Together, due to the higher level of demand they had demonstrated for their model.

Having carefully weighed the case made by the Department of Education and Skills, I found that the language provisions of the Act, insofar as they pertained to the language and cultural needs of students having regard to the choices of their parents, had not been appropriately fulfilled by the Department in the process to appoint a patron.

I also deemed that the approach taken by the Department was not in accordance with the realisation of national policy in relation to the extension of bilingualism in Irish society. Those policies are stated in the Statement on the Irish Language which the Government of Ireland published in 2006 and in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language which was published in 2010. The objectives of those policies are very clear in respect of the development of all-Irish education. In this case, there were 361 pupils who indicated that they wished to receive an all-Irish education in a school with a multi-

ilchreidmheach. Bhí de locht ar an gcóras a bhí bunaithe ag an Roinn nár éirigh leis freastal ar an éileamh sin chun tacú le réadú bheartais an Stáit i leith chur chun cinn an dátheangachais sa tir.

Mhol an t-imscrúdú go bhféachfadh an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna athuair ar an éileamh ar oideachas ilchreidmheach trí mheán na Gaeilge i gceantar pleannála scoile Dhoimh Conrach/Marino/Bhaile Átha Cliath 1; go dtabharfadh an Roinn cuntas do m'Oifig ar aon chéimeanna a bhí i gceist a thógáil chun an t-éileamh sin a shásamh laistigh de 6 mhí ó dháta na tuarascála imscrúdaithe agus go gcloífeasta leis na dualgas reachtúil teanga sa phróiseas trána mbronntar pátrúnacht.

Imscrúdú seolta: 7 Deireadh Fómhair 2016

Tuarascáil eisithe: 27 Aibreán 2017

OLSCOIL CHATHAIR BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

Léirigh imscrúdú nach raibh córas oiriúnach i bhfeidhm ag Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath chun cloí leis an dualgas reachtúil teanga atá daingnithe i bhfo-alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 agus i mbun cumarsáid scríofa.



Rinne duine den phobal gearán le m'Oifig ar an 2 Deireadh Fómhair 2015 toisc go bhfuair sé freagra i mbÉarla ó Rannóg Acmhainní Daonna na hOllscoile ar riomhphost a sheol sé chuig an ranngó sin i nGaeilge. I bhfo-alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla leagtar dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí cumarsáid i scribhinn nó leis an bpost leictreonach a fhreagairt sa teanga oifigiúil chéanna.

Tharraing m'Oifig an cheist seo anuas leis an Ollscoil ar bhonn neamhfhoirmiúil ag an am. D'admhaigh an Ollscoil gur sáraíodh an dualgas reachtúil sin i gcás an ghearánaigh, gabh sí leithscéal leis an ngearánach agus dheimhnigh sí go raibh céimeanna á nglacadh d'fhoí a chinntíú go gcloífeasta leis an dualgas sin feasta.

denominational ethos. The problem with the system which had been put in place by the Department was that it did not succeed in accommodating that demand to support the realisation of the State's policy in respect of the promotion of bilingualism in the country.

The investigation recommended that the Department of Education and Skills look once more at the demand for multi-denominational education through the medium of Irish in the school planning area of Drumcondra/Marino/Dublin 1; that an account be given to my Office of any steps that are proposed to satisfy that demand within 6 months of the date of the report on the investigation and that the Department would adhere, henceforth, to the statutory language obligations in the process by which patronage is awarded.

Investigation launched: 7 October 2016

Report issued: 27 April 2017

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

An investigation found that Dublin City University did not have an appropriate system in place to adhere to the statutory language obligation, which is confirmed in section 9(2) of the Official Languages Act 2003, whilst communicating in writing.



A member of the public made a complaint to my Office on 2 October 2015 as he had received a response in English to an e-mail he had written in Irish to the University's Human Resources Department. Section 9(2) of the Official Languages Act 2003 places a responsibility on public bodies to respond in the same official language to written communications or communications by electronic post.

My Office raised the matter with the University on an informal basis at the time. The University admitted that the statutory obligation had been breached in the case of the complainant, apologised to the complainant and confirmed that steps were being taken to ensure that the obligation would be adhered to in future.

Rinne an gearánach céanna gearán eile i mí na Bealtaine 2017 agus arís i mí an Mheithimh 2017 ar an ábhar céanna. Trí huaire, mar sin, a tharla a leithéid don ghearánach céanna. D'admhaigh an Ollscoil ina freagra ar m'Oifig gur sáraíodh an dualgas céanna i gcás an dá fhreagra a seoladh chuig an ngearánach in 2017 agus gabh sí leithscéal as an méid sin.

I bhfianaise na dtrí shárú seo, bheartaigh mé gur ghá imscrídú a sheoladh chun teacht ar chinneadh críochnúil an raibh nó nach raibh córas ceart éifeachtach i bhfeidhm ag an Ollscoil le cinntíú go gcomhlíontar an phoráil i bhfo-alt 9 (2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 go cui, agus moltaí a dhéanamh dá mba ghá.

D'admhaigh an Ollscoil sa fhreagra ar an imscrídú gur sáraíodh an dualgas reachtúil agus ghabh sí leithscéal ina leith.

Nuair a tharraing m'Oifig an chéad ghearán anuas leis an Ollscoil in 2015, bheartaigh an Ollscoil gur ghá céimeanna áirithe a ghlacadh a mbeadh de chuspóir acu go gcloífe feasta leis an dualgas reachtúil agus go bhfreagrófaí comhfhereagras i nGaeilge sa teanga chéanna. Tháinig sé chun solais, nuair a bhí an Ollscoil ag fiosrú an dara agus an tríú gearán, nár cuireadh roinnt de na céimeanna sin i bhfeidhm. Idir sin agus an fhíric gur tharla dhá shárú eile i gcás an chomhfhereagrai chéanna, is deacair éalú ón gconclúid nach raibh córas oriúnach i bhfeidhm, chomh fada agus a bhain sé leis an Rannóg Acmhainní Daonna.

Mhínigh an Ollscoil go raibh cúinsí eisceachtúla ag baint leis an tréimhse ina raibh i gceist na céimeanna a bhí beartaithe a chur i bhfeidhm agus go raibh an Rannóg faoi bhrú ollmhór le linn phróiseas ionchorpraithe na n-institiúidí oideachais eile a tugadh faoi scáth na hOllscoile. Is furasta a shamhlú go mbeadh dúshláin mhóra ag baint le cónascadh struchtúir riarracháin agus bainistithe acmhainní daonna na gceithre institiúid ábhartha agus d'fhéadfadh go raibh tionchar ag

The same complainant made another complaint in May 2017, and again in June 2017, on the same subject. The same thing had happened three times, therefore, to one individual. The University admitted in its response to my Office that the same obligation had been contravened in both instances of responses to the complainant in 2017 and apologised in relation to it.

In light of these three contraventions, I decided that an investigation was warranted in order to arrive at a final decision as to whether or not the University had an effective system in place to ensure that the obligation under section 9(2) of the Official Languages Act 2003 is implemented correctly, and to make recommendations, if so required.

The University admitted to the investigation that the statutory obligation had been contravened and apologised in that respect.

When my Office raised the first complaint with the University in 2015, it was decided that certain measures needed to be adopted with the objective that the obligation would be adhered to in future, and that correspondence in Irish would be replied to in the same language. It came to light, when the University was investigating the second and third complaints, that a number of those measures had not been implemented. Between that and the fact that two other contraventions had happened in the case of the same complainant, it is hard to escape the conclusion that no proper system was in place, particularly in the case of the Human Resources Department.

The University explained that there were exceptional circumstances pertaining to the period during which it was intended to implement the proposed measures and that the Department was under severe pressure during the process of incorporating the other educational institutes that were brought under the auspices of the University. It is easy to imagine that huge challenges would attach to the amalgamation of the administrative structures and the human resource management of the

na tosca neamhghnácha sin ar an méid a tharla. Mar sin féin, is dualgas bunúsach é go bhfreagródh comhlacht poiblí, a thagann faoi scáth an Acharta, comhfheagras sa teanga oifigiúil ina bhfaightear é. Is ann don riachtanas le breis agus 14 bliana agus ba chóir go mbeadh sé buanaithe i gcleachtais oibre agus i gcultúir an chomhlachta phoiblí beag beann ar aon athrú a thagann ar chínsí oibre na heagraíochta.

Tá céimeanna glactha ag an Ollscoil chun foireann na Rannóige Acmhainní Daonna a chur ar an eolas maidir leis an dualgas reachtúil seo agus chun cur ina luí orthu nach mór cloí leis an dualgas sin. Mhol an Ollscoil acmhainní agus oiliúint bhreise a chur ar fáil d'fhoireann na Rannóige agus d'fhoireann na hOllscoile i gcoitinne. Is fianaise é sin go bhfuil aird níos mó á tabhairt ar an dualgas.

Rinne mé sé mholadh san imscrídú, dirithe ar oiliúint foirne agus cúrsai ionduchtaithe foirne, le cinntíú go bhfuil foireann na hOllscoile uile ar an eolas faoin dualgas reachtúil teanga bunúsach seo.

Imscrídú seolta: 4 Lúnasa 2017

Tuarascáil eisithe: 13 Samhain 2017

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Léirigh imscrídú gur sháraigh Comhairle Contae Chorcaí go feasach an

dualgas reachtúil teanga atá daingnithe i bhfo-alt 10(a) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 agus foilsíú tri Bhéarla amháin á dhéanamh aici ar Dhréachtphleananna Ceantair Áitiúil agus i bhfo-alt 18(1) den Acht céanna, fad is a bhaineann sé le scéim teanga reachtúil a chur i bhfeidhm, trí úsáid a bhaint as leaganacha neamhoifigiúla Béarla de logainmneacha Gaeltachta chun críoch oifigiúil sna cáipéisí sin.

Rinneadh gearán leis an Oifig seo i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2016 nach raibh i gceist ag an gComhairle leagan Gaeilge dá Dhréachtphleananna Ceantair Áitiúil (DCÁ) a fhoilsíú. Cuireadh in iúl chomh maith go raibh cáipéisí comhairliúcháin in airde ar shuíomh gréasáin



Comhairle
Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

four institutes involved and it was possible that those unusual circumstances had an effect on the situation. It is, however, a basic obligation that a public body, which comes under the auspices of the Act, would respond to correspondence in the official language in which it is received. This has been a requirement for over 14 years and it should be embedded in the culture and work practices of a public body regardless of any change that occurs in the circumstances of the organisation.

The University has taken steps to appraise the Human Resources Department of this statutory obligation and to impress upon it the need to adhere to that obligation. The University recommended providing further resources and training to the staff of that department and to the staff of the University in general. This is evidence that additional attention is being given to the obligation.

I made six recommendations in the investigation, aimed at staff training and induction courses, to ensure that all University staff are aware of this basic statutory language obligation.

Investigation launched: 4 August 2017

Report issued: 13 November 2017

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

An investigation found that Cork County Council knowingly breached



Comhairle
Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

the statutory language obligation enshrined in subsection 10(a) of the Official Languages Act 2003 by publishing Draft Local Area Plans in English only and in subsection 18(1) of the same Act pertaining to the implementation of a statutory language scheme, by using unofficial English placenames for official purposes in those documents.

A complaint was made to my Office in October 2016 that the Council did not intend to publish draft Local Area Plans (LAPs) in Irish. The Office was also informed that consultation documents had been uploaded to the Council's website and that

na Comhairle agus gur i mBéarla amháin a bhí na logainmneacha Gaeltachta sna cáipéisí sin. Rinne an Oifig teagmháil leis an gComhairle agus mheabhraigh sí a dualgais reachtúla teanga di. Níor cuireadh aon fhreagra ar fáil. Foilsiodh na DCÁnna i mBéarla amháin ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle ar an 16 Samhain 2016.

Rinne m'Oifig teagmháil arís agus arís eile leis an gComhairle le linn na tréimhse comhairliúcháin, ag lorg freagra i scríbhinn. Tháinig deireadh leis an tréimhse ar an 16 Eanáir 2017. Toisc nár foilsiodh leagan Gaeilge de na dréachtphleananna agus gur theip ar an gComhairle freagra i scríbhinn a chur ar fáil do m'Oifig ar an ábhar, chinн mé tabhaint faoi imscrúdú sa chás.

Is beag doiciméad a fhoilsíonn comhlachtaí poiblí a thagann faoi scáth Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla a bhfuil dualgas díreach faoin reachtaíocht iad a fhoilsíú go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Tá dréachtphleananna forbartha na n-údarás áitiúil luaite go sonrach, áfach, mar dhoiciméid ina bhfuil tográí beartais phoiblí. Tá foráil ar leith déanta in I.R. Uimh. 32 de 2004 maidir lena bhfoilsíú go comhuaineach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla.

Maidir le ceist na logainmneacha Gaeltachta, tá foráil áirithe i scéim teanga reachtúil na Comhairle ina ngealltar go n-úsáidfidh na húdarás áitiúla an tOrdú Logainmneacha (Ceantair Ghaeltachta), 2004 chun críoch oifigiúil. Faoi fho-alt 18(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, tá dualgas reachtúil ar chomhlacht poiblí scéim atá daingnithe ag an Aire a chur i gcrích.

Bheartaigh mé imscrúdú a sheoladh, bunaithe ar an ngearán a rinneadh liom, nuair nach raibh aon toradh ar iarrachtaí neamhfhoirmiúla an scéal a chur ina cheart.

Dúirt an Chomhairle ina freagra gur ghlac sí leis gur foilsíodh ocht DCÁ i mBéarla gan an leagan Gaeilge a bheith foilsithe go comhuaineach. An míniú a tugadh ar an gcúis ná go raibh an cur chuige seo riachtanach toisc gurb í an Chomhairle an t-údarás áitiúil is mó sa tir, le hocht DCÁ, a chaithfí a ullmhú ag an am céanna. Thug an Chomhairle le fios gur ghealltanás ollmhór é seo di de bharr scála,

Gaeltacht placenames appeared in English only in those documents. The Office contacted the Council and reminded it of its statutory obligation. No reply was forthcoming. The draft LAPs were published in English only on the Council's website on 16 November 2016.

My Office contacted the Council a number of times during the consultation period, seeking a written response. The period concluded on 16 January 2017. As no Irish version of the documents had been published and as the Council failed to provide a written response to my Office on the issue, I decided to launch an investigation.

There are very few documents published by a public body coming under the Official Languages Act that are required by direct provision of the Act to be published simultaneously in both official languages. Draft development plans of the local authorities are specifically mentioned, however, as documents which contain public policy proposals. There is a provision in S.I. No. 32 of 2004 in respect of their simultaneous publication in Irish and English.

As regards the issue of the Gaeltacht placenames, a provision is included in the Council's statutory language scheme which commits to the local authorities using the Placenames (Gaeltacht Areas) Order 2004 for official purposes. Under subsection 18(1) of the Official Languages Act 2003, public bodies are legally obliged to implement a language scheme that has been confirmed by the Minister.

I decided to launch an investigation based on the complaint made to me, when there was no resolution through the informal efforts to rectify the issue.

The Council stated in its response that it accepted that eight draft LAPs had been published in English without an Irish version being published simultaneously. The explanation given was that this approach was necessary because the Council is the largest local authority in the country, with eight LAPs which must be prepared at the same time. The Council advised that this was a huge commitment

chastacht agus éagsúlacht an chontae arb ionann agus thart ar 1/8 de mhórchríoch Phoblacht na hÉireann é, agus nach bhfuil an saghas dúshláin sin os comhair aon chontae eile.

Thug an Chomhairle le fios go raibh an seasamh seo i réim le tamall agus gur chuir lucht bainistiochta na Comhairle nithe áirithe san áireamh agus iad ag teacht ar an seasamh sin, ina measc, amlínte reachtúla dochta; leibhéal leas an phobail agus an t-éileamh; an costas mór atá bainteach leis i bhfianaise easpa spéise/éilimh; cruinneas an doiciméid aistrithe, ag tabhaint san áireamh go bhfuil an teanga an-sonrach, teicniúil agus téarmaíocht infheidhme i gcomhthéacs pleanála, agus luach foriomlán an chaiteachais. Luadh gurb é an gearán a fuair m'Oifig an t-aon iarratas amháin a fuarthas (as daonra 416,000 saoránach sa chontae).

Cuireadh cóip den amliné a bhaineann leis na DCÁnna a ullmhú ar fáil. Dúradh gurb é €182,000 an buiséad a bhí ceadaithe ag comhaltaí tofa na Comhairle dóibh sa bhliain 2017. Ardaíodh an t-ollchostas measta ar ullmhú na ndréachtphleananna go dtí €3,046,000 (costas forne €2,482,000; costais eile €564,000) nuair a cheistigh an t-imscrídú an figiúr sin.

Thug an Chomhairle meastachán de €156,000 ar aistriúchán Gaeilge ar na hacht DCÁ a ullmhú, agus dúirt go mbeadh costais bhreise le seasamh maidir le haistriúchán na bPleananna Ceantair Áitiúil (PCÁ) deiridh.

Ghlac an Chomhairle leis go raibh sárú déanta maidir le logainmneacha Gaeltachta agus tugadh le fios nach raibh de chúis leis ach dearmad. Dhearbhagh an Chomhairle go raibh sé i gceist aici aghaidh a thabhairt ar logainmneacha i gceantair Ghaeltachta sna céimeanna deiridh den phróiseas PCÁ. Gheall an Chomhairle chomh maith go ndéanfadh sí measúnú ar an leibhéal éilimh ar leaganacha Gaeilge de na PCÁnna nuair a bhí na pleannanna deiridh á gcur i gcrích i mí Iúil 2017. Ba chóir a thabhairt faoi deara nach bhfuil aon riachtanas reachtúil ann leagan Gaeilge de na pleannanna críochnúla a sholáthar.

due to the scale, complexity and diversity of a county that is equivalent to approximately 1/8 of the landmass of the Republic of Ireland, and that no other county faces that kind of challenge.

The Council advised that it had taken this stance for some time and that the management of the Council had taken various items into account when arriving at that stance, including tight statutory timelines; levels of interest from the public and demand; the large costs associated with it considering the absence of interest or demand; the accuracy of the translated document, taking into account the very specific, technical language and the conventional terminology in a planning context; and overall value for money spent. It was mentioned that the complaint received by my Office was the only request received (from a population of 416,000 citizens in the county).

A copy of the timeline that pertains to the preparation of the draft LAPs was provided. It was stated that €182,000 was the budget that had been sanctioned by the elected members of the Council for the Draft Plans in 2017. The total estimated cost of preparing the Draft Plans was increased to €3,046,000 (staff costs of €2,842,000 and other costs of €564,000) when queried by the investigation.

The Council provided an estimated cost of €156,000 to prepare an Irish translation of the eight draft LAPs and said that additional costs would be incurred in the translation of the final LAPs.

The Council accepted that a breach had occurred in respect of the Gaeltacht placenames and advised that this was a mistake. The Council confirmed that it intended to deal with the placenames in Gaeltacht areas in the final stages of the LAP process. The Council also promised to assess the level of demand for Irish versions of the LAPs when the plans were being finalised in July 2017. It should be noted that there is no statutory requirement to provide an Irish language version of the final plans.

Is go lánfheasach a cinneadh sa chás seo neamháird a thabhairt ar dhualgais reachtúla a bhí daingnithe le dlí ag an Oireachtas, mar is léir ón bhfreagra a chuir an Chomhairle ar fáil don imscrúdú, in ainneoin go raibh aird tarraingthe ag m'Oifig ar an dualgas reachtúil roimh fhoilsíú na ndréachtpheleananna.

Tá dualgais ar leith ar údaráis áitiúla a chinntíú go gcloíonn an pobal lena ndualgais i gcúrsaí pleanála, cúrsaí comhshaoil, etc. Is cúis imní é go ndéanfadh eagraíocht den chineál sin cinneadh as a stuaim féin gan géilleadh dá dualgas reachtúil féin nó do dhí na tíre.

Ba chóir a lua go bhfuil ceantair Ghaeltachta áirithe sna dréachtpheleananna seo. Bhí an caiteachas a bhí le déanamh ar sholáthar an leagain Gaeilge íseal go maith i gcomhthéacs buiséad iomlán an tionscnamh. Ach d'fhág an Chomhairle i féin sa riocth go bhféadfadh sé go bhfuil dréachtpheleananna aici nach féidir léi a bheith iomlán cinnte faoina mbailiocht de bharr faillí ina cur chuige cloí le dualgas reachtúla.

Maidir le ceist na logainmneacha Gaeltachta, is as a stuaim féin a d'aontaigh an Chomhairle an mhír sin den scéim teanga, agus is dá thoradh sin atá dualgas reachtúil uirthi na leaganacha oifigiúla Gaeilge de logainmneacha Gaeltachta a úsáid chun críoch oifigiúil.

Tugadh faoi deara gur lean an Chomhairle ag baint úsáid as leaganacha neamhoifigiúla Béarla de logainmneacha Gaeltachta chun críoch oifigiúil i bhfoilsíú na nAthruithe Ábhartha ar na dréachtpheleananna ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle.

Moladh san imscrúdú, i measc nithe eile, go gcinnteodh an Chomhairle go gcloifeadh sí feasta lena dualgas reachtúla faoi fho-alt 10(a) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 agus go mbeadh ullmhú leaganacha Gaeilge de dhoiciméid a bheadh le foilsíú go comhuaineach le leaganacha Béarla feasta mar chuid thráthúil, lárnach de phróiseas pleanála an tionscnamh sin.

Imscrúdú seolta: 31 Eanáir 2017

Tuarascáil eisithe: 6 Meitheamh 2017

The decision made in this case to disregard statutory legal obligations enshrined in legislation by the Oireachtas was a completely conscious one, as is apparent from the response provided by the Council to the investigation, despite the fact that my Office had alerted the Council to the statutory obligation prior to the publication of the draft plans.

Local authorities have a specific obligation to ensure that the public adheres to its obligations in planning and environmental matters, etc. It is a matter of some concern that an organisation of this nature would decide of its own accord not to comply with its own statutory obligations or with the law of the land.

It should be mentioned that a Gaeltacht area is encompassed in these draft plans. The expenditure on the preparation of an Irish language version was quite low in comparison to the overall budget of the project. But the Council may have left itself in a position where it cannot be completely assured of the validity of the plans due to the negligence of its approach to adhering to statutory obligations.

As regards the question of the Gaeltacht placenames, the Council agreed that provision of the language scheme of its own accord, and as a result it is legally obliged to use the official Irish language versions of Gaeltacht placenames for official purposes.

It was noted that the Council continued to use the unofficial English language versions of Gaeltacht placenames for official purposes in the publication of the Material Changes to the draft plans on the Council's website.

The investigation recommended, amongst other things, that the Council ensure it adheres in future to its statutory obligations under section 10(a) of the Official Languages Act and that the preparation of Irish versions of documents to be published simultaneously with English versions would, in future, be a timely, central part of the planning process for such projects.

Investigation launched: 31 January 2017

Report issued: 6 June 2017

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City
& County Council

Léirigh imscrúdú gur sháraigh Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Phort Láirge an dualgas reachtúil teanga atá daingnithe i bhfo-alt 10(b) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, nuair a d'fhoilsigh sí Tuarascáil Bhliantúil na Comhairle don bhliain 2015 trí Bhéarla amháin, agus gur tharla an sárú sin trí fhaillí a rinne an Chomhairle gan aird chuí a thabhairt ar an dualgas reachtúil í a fhoilsíú go comhuaineach i ngach ceann de na teangacha oifigiúla sna céimeanna pleánala a bhain lena soláthar.

Áirítear ar m'fheidhmeanna faireachán a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh fhorálacha an Acharta. Mar chuid den chúram sin, rinne m'Oifig iniúchadh le linn na mblianta 2016-2017 ar chur i bhfeidhm na scéime teanga atá daingnithe i gcás na Comhairle agus ar na dualgais teanga eile atá daingnithe i bhforálacha an Acharta. I bhfreagra ón gComhairle dar dáta an 23 Nollaig 2016, a bhí mar chuid den phróiseas iniúchta sin, cuireadh in iúl do m'Oifig go raibh fáil ar Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2015 na Comhairle i mBéarla ar a suiomh gréasán agus go raibh sí ag obair ar an leagan Gaeilge den tuarascáil a chur ar fáil.

Tá tuarascálacha bliantúla, cosúil leis an bhforáil i dtaca le Pleananna Ceantair Áitiúil a luadh san imscrúdú roimhe seo, i measc an bheagán doiciméad a fhoilsionn comhlachtaí poiblí a thagann faoi scáth Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus a bhfuil dualgas direach faoin reachtaíocht iad a fhoilsíú go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla.

Pléadh foilsíú na Tuarascála Bliantúla ag cruinníú le feidhmeannaigh de chuid na Comhairle i mí an Mhárta 2017 agus d'iarr m'Oifig go dtabharfaí míniú i scribhinn faoin bhfáth nár fhoilsigh an Chomhairle Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2015 go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Chuir an Chomhairle míniú i scribhinn ar fáil ar an 27 Aibreán 2017, ag rá gur baineadh úsáid as leagan amach nua ba dheacair a athchruthú maidir le struchtúr agus formáid, agus nár cuireadh leagan Gaeilge ar fáil ag an am céanna. Dheimhnigh

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City
& County Council

An investigation found that Waterford City and County Council contravened the statutory language obligation enshrined in subsection 10(b) of the Official Languages Act 2003 by publishing the Council's Annual Report for 2015 in English only, and that this occurred through the Council's negligence by not heeding the statutory obligation to publish it simultaneously in each of the official languages when the report was being planned.

My functions include monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Act. As part of that responsibility my Office audited, during 2016-2017, the implementation of the language scheme confirmed for the Council and of the other language obligations enshrined in the provisions of the Act. In a response from the Council of 23 December 2016, which formed part of that audit, my Office was advised that the Council's Annual Report for 2015 was available in English on the website and that it was working on providing an Irish version.

Annual reports, similar to the provision in respect of Local Area Plans mentioned in the previous investigation, form part of the small number of documents which public bodies coming under the auspices of the Official Languages Act publish and to which a direct provision under the Act to publish them simultaneously in both official languages attaches.

The publication of the Annual Report was discussed at a meeting with Council officials in March 2017 and my Office requested an explanation in writing as to why the Council did not publish the 2015 Annual Report simultaneously in both official languages. The Council supplied a written explanation on 27 April 2017, stating that a new layout was used which was hard to recreate in terms of structure and format and that an Irish version was not made available at the same time. The Council confirmed that it intended to procure translation services and to translate the Annual

an Chomhairle go raibh sé beartaithe aici seirbhísí aistriúcháin a fháil agus Tuarascálacha Blantúla 2015 agus 2016 a aistriú faoi Mheitheamh 2017.

Bheartaigh mé gur ghá imscrúdú a sheoladh chun teacht ar léargas iomlán ar an tsli, na tosca agus na fáthanna ar chinn an Chomhairle gan a Tuarascáil Bhliantúil don bhliain 2015 a fhoilsiú go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Anuas air sin, thug m'Ofig faoi deara nach raibh leagan Gaeilge de Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2014 ar fail ar suíomh gréasáin na Comhairle, biodh is go raibh an leagan Béarla den tuarascáil sin foilsithe ar an suíomh. Theastaigh uaim a dheimhniú, freisin, pé acu a comhlionadh nó nár comhlionadh an fhoráil reachtúil i gcás Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2014.

Sa fhreagra ón gComhairle, deimhniodh gur cuireadh Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2014 ar fáil i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla. Mhínigh an Chomhairle, áfach, gur cruthaiodh suíomh nua gréasáin don Chomhairle idir an dá linn agus nuair a aistriodh an t-eolas annón ón seansuiomh go dtí an suíomh nua gur tharla roinnt earráidí agus easnamh agus gur fágadh an leagan Gaeilge de Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2014 ar lár ón suíomh nua. Dheimhnigh sí go raibh an botún sin curtha ina cheart anois agus go raibh leaganacha Gaeilge agus Béarla araon ar fáil ar an suíomh gréasáin athuair.

D'admhaigh an Chomhairle ina freagra gur sháraigh sí fo-alt 10(b) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 nuair nár foilsíodh Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2015 i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla go comhuaineach.

Mhínigh an Chomhairle go bhfeidhmíonn an próiseas trína gcuireann sí a tuarascáil bhliantúil ar fáil de réir na reachtaíochta atá leagtha síos sna hAchtanna Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001 agus 2014 agus thagair sí go háirthe d'alt den reachtaiocht sin ina leagtar síos nach mór an tuarascáil bhliantúil a ullmhú agus a ghlacadh tráth nach déanaí ná an 30 Meitheamh gach bliain agus dréacht den tuarascáil bhliantúil sin a chur faoi bhráid chomhaltaí na Comhairle tráth nach déanaí ná an 30 Aibreán gach bliain.

Mhínigh an Chomhairle nach raibh riamh i gceist gan an tuarascáil a aistriú agus nach raibh aon taifead ann

Reports for both 2015 and 2016 by June 2017.

I decided that an investigation was necessitated to get a full insight into the manner, the factors and the reasons behind the Council's decision not to publish its 2015 Annual Report simultaneously in both official languages. My Office also noticed that the Irish version of the 2014 Annual Report was not available on the Council's website, although the English version of that report was available on the site. I wanted to confirm, also, whether or not the statutory provision had been complied with in the case of the 2014 Annual Report.

The Council's response confirmed that the 2014 Annual Report had been made available in Irish and English. The Council explained, however, that a new website had been created for the Council in the interim and that when the information was transferred from the old website to the new website some errors and omissions occurred and the Irish version of the 2014 Annual Report was omitted from the new site. The Council confirmed that this error had now been rectified and that both Irish and English versions were once again available on the website.

The Council admitted that it had contravened subsection 10(b) of the Official Languages Act 2003 when the Annual Report for 2015 was not published simultaneously in Irish and English.

The Council explained that the process through which it produces the annual report is regulated by the legislation set out in the Local Government Acts 2001 and 2014 and it referred specifically to sections of that legislation which require the annual report to be prepared and adopted no later than 30 June each year, and that a draft of the annual report must be laid before the members of the Council no later than 30 April every year.

The Council explained that it was never intended not to translate the report and that there was no record that a decision of that nature had been intentionally made. Indeed, the Council maintained that there was

go ndearnadh aon chinneadh den saghais sin in aon turas. Go deimhin, mhaigh sí go raibh fianaise ann a thabharfadhl le fios go raibh sé i gceist leagan Gaeilge a chur ar fáil: deimhniodh do bhallaif foirne de chuid na Comhairle, i ríomhphost dar dháta an 3 Bealtaine 2016, go soláthrófaí leagan Gaeilge.

Chuir an Chomhairle in iúl don imscrúdú go ndeachthas i mbun tairiscintí a iarraidh chun Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2015 a aistriú, gur cuireadh an próiseas sin i gcrích le linn an dara ráithe den bhliain 2017 agus go raibh an tuarascáil sin aistrithe agus leagan Gaeilge di curtha ar fáil. I ndiaidh dom dréacht-tuarascáil a chur chuig an gComhairle, chuir an Chomhairle in iúl ina freagra go dtabharfaí foilsíú an leagain Gaeilge den tuarascáil san áireamh feasta mar dhlúthchuid de phróiseas ullmhúcháin na tuarascála.

Is próiseas reachtúil é ullmhú tuarascála bliantúla de chuid údarásaitiúil a bhfuil baint ag Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla leis chomh maith leis na hAchtanna Rialtais Áitiúil. Éiltear go reachtúil go bhfoilseofaí í go comhuaineach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla, agus é sin “d’ainneoin aon achtachán eile...”. Thug an Chomhairle le fios nár cinneadh aon am gan leagan Gaeilge den tuarascáil a fhoilsíú ach gurbh amhlaidh a ligeadh an dualgas reachtúil sin i ndearmad.

Is díol suntais é go ligfí an dualgas reachtúil sin i ndearmad in ainneoin gur chuir ball foirne de chuid na Comhairle an dualgas sin i gcuimhne don rannóg i mí na Bealtaine 2016 mar aiseolas ar an dréacht-tuarascáil, go bhfuil an dualgas reachtúil sin i bhfeidhm ó 2004 agus curtha i bhfeidhm ag an dá údarás áitiúla a bhfuil an Chomhairle ina comharba orthu agus gur chomhlíon an Chomhairle an dualgas sin i gcás thuarascáil bhliantúil na bliana roimhe sin.

I bhfreagra na Comhairle, luadh dhá chús eile ar theip ar an gComhairle leagan Gaeilge den Tuarascáil Bhliantúil a fhoilsíú tráth a foilsiodh an leagan Béarla di i Meitheamh 2016 – athrú a rinneadh ar leagan amach na tuarascála agus an próiseas tairisceana ba ghá a leanúint maidir le seirbhís aistriúcháin. Ní fheicim cén tsúl a raibh na tosca sin ina gcúiseanna má ligeadh an dualgas reachtúil i ndearmad go hiomlán.

evidence available which would give one to believe that it was intended to provide an Irish version – it was confirmed to a member of staff, in an e-mail of 3 May 2016, that it was intended to produce an Irish version.

The Council informed the investigation that it had gone to tender to provide a translation of the 2015 Annual Report, that that process had been finalised in the second quarter of 2017 and that the report had been translated and an Irish version made available. Subsequent to my issuing a draft investigation report to the Council, the Council informed me in its response that the publication of the Irish version of the report would be included, in future, as an intrinsic part of the preparation process for the report.

The preparation of an annual report by a local authority is a statutory process to which the Official Languages Act is relevant, as well as the Local Government Acts. It is statutorily required that it be published simultaneously in Irish and English, “notwithstanding any other enactment...”. The Council advised that at no point was a decision made not to produce an Irish version, but that that statutory requirement was merely forgotten.

It is of some interest that such a statutory requirement would be forgotten despite a member of the staff of the Council reminding the section of that requirement in May 2016 as feedback to the draft report, that the statutory requirement is in place since 2004 and had been adhered to by both the Councils which the current Council replaced, and as the Council had fulfilled the obligation in the case of the previous year’s report.

In the Council’s response, two other reasons were given for the failure to provide an Irish version of the Annual Report at the time of the publication of the English version in June 2016 – a change made to the layout of the report and the tender process which needs to be adhered to in respect of translation services. I fail to see how those factors were relevant if the statutory obligation was completely forgotten.

Pé scéal é, is dealraitheach gur breathnaíodh ar fhoilsíú leagain Gaeilge mar ghnó tánaisteach nó imeallach, a raibh aghaidh le tabhairt air ag an deireadh seachas dlúthchuid reachtúil den phróiseas atá ar comhchéim leis na forálacha ábhartha de na hAchtanna Rialtais Áitiúil. Ní ligfi an dualgas sin i ndearmad dá mbeadh sé curtha san áireamh mar chuid de na gnótháí riachtanacha sna céimeanna pleánala ón túis ná ní roghnófaí cur chuige a chruthódh deacrachtaí breise leagan Gaeilge a chur ar fáil go comhuaineach.

Is ábhar sásaimh dom gur cosúil gur chloigh an Chomhairle leis an dualgas reachtúil i gcás Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2016 agus gur foilsíodh í i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla go comhuaineach. Moladh san imscrúdú go gcinnteodh an Chomhairle go gcloifeadh sí feasta leis an dualgas reachtúil faoi fhoalt 10(b) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 maidir le foilsíú comhuaineach aon tuarascáil bhliantúil i ngach ceann de na teangacha oifigiúla agus go gcinnteodh sí go mbeadh ullmhú leagain Gaeilge de thuarascáil bhliantúil ina chuid thráthúil, lárnach feasta de phróiseas pleánala an tionscnaimh sin.

Imscrúdú seolta: 2 Meitheamh 2017

Tuarascáil eisithe: 19 Deireadh Fómhair 2017

It would appear, however, that the publication of the Irish version was regarded as a secondary or peripheral matter, to be addressed at the end, rather than an intrinsic statutory part of the process that is on a par with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Acts. That obligation would not have been forgotten had it been included in the necessary preparations in the planning stages from the beginning, nor would an approach have been selected which would have created difficulties subsequently in providing an Irish version.

It is a matter of some satisfaction to me that it would appear that the Council adhered to the statutory obligation in its Annual Report for 2016 and that it was published simultaneously in Irish and English. The investigation recommended that the Council ensure that it complies in future with the statutory obligations under subsection 10(b) of the Official Languages Act 2003 in respect of the simultaneous publication of any annual report in both official languages and that it ensures that the production of the Irish version of the report is a timely, integral part of the planning process of the project.

Investigation launched: 2 June 2017

Report issued: 19 October 2017

CÚRSAÍ AIRGEADAIS

Cuireadh buiséad €730,000 ar fáil don Oifig don bhliain 2017 agus tarraingíodh anuas €728,665 den airgead sin.

Tá ráitis airgeadais na hOifige don bhliain 2017 ullmhaithe don Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste lena n-iniúchadh de réir fho-alt 8(2) den Dara Sceideal d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003.

A luithe agus is féidir tar éis an iniúchta, déanfaidh an Coimisinéir Teanga cóip de na cuntas sin, nó de cibé sleachta as na cuntas sin a shonróidh an tAire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta, mar aon le tuarascáil an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste maidir leis na cuntas, a chur i láthair an Aire. Beidh cóipeanna de na doiciméid sin á leagan faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtas ag an Aire. Foilseofar freisin iad ar shuíomh gréasáin na hOifige seo.

ÍOCAÍOCHTAÍ PRASA

I gcomhréir le cinntí Rialtais a rinneadh ar an 2 agus an 8 Márta 2011, leagadh dualgas ar eagraíochtaí stáit córais chuí a fheidhmiú ionas go n-íocfaí sonraisc bhailí laistigh de 15 lá ón dáta a fhaightear iad. Tá dualgas ar egraíochtaí stáit chomh maith tuairisc ráithiúil maidir leis an ábhar seo a fhoilsiú ar a suíomh gréasáin.

Tuairisc ar Íocaíochtaí Prasa *Prompt Payments Report*

Tréimhse Clúdaithe: 1 Eanáir – 31 Nollaig 2017 Period Covered: 1 January – 31 December 2017

Sonrai Details	Uimhir Number	Luach (€) Value (€)	Céatadán (%) de líon iomlán na n-íocaíochtaí a rinneadh <i>Percentage (%) of total number of payments made</i>
Líon na n-íocaíochtaí a rinneadh laistigh de 15 lá <i>Number of payments made within 15 days</i>	227	143723.56	97.5%
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>	6	3640.97	2.5%
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>	233	147364.53	100%
Sonraisc faoi dhíospóid <i>Disputed Invoices</i>			Ní bhaineann N/A

FINANCIAL MATTERS

A budget of €730,000 was provided for my Office for 2017 and €728,665 of that money was drawn down.

The financial statements of the Office for 2017 have been prepared for audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General in accordance with subsection 8(2) of the Second Schedule of the Official Languages Act 2003.

As soon as possible after the audit, a copy of those accounts or of such extracts from those accounts as the Minister for Culture, Heritage 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 also be published on this Office's website.

PROMPT PAYMENTS

In accordance with Government decisions made on the 2nd and 8th of March 2011, 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 this matter on their websites.

FUINNEAMH

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

FORBHREATHNÚ AR ÚSÁID FUINNIMH SA BHLIAIN 2017

Baineann iomlán an fhuinnimh le leictreachas a úsáideann Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga i bhfoirgneamh na hOifige sa Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe. Cuimsíonn sé sin an fuinneamh a úsáidtear i gcomhair théamh agus aerú an fhoirgnimh, téamh uisce, soilse agus trealamh oifige.

Sa bhliain 2017, d'úsáid Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga 62.03 MWh leictreachais. Tá sé sin nach mór cothrom le húsáid na bliana 2016 (62.13 MWh).

GNÍOMHARTHA A RINNEADH IN 2017

Leanadh de na beartais a bunaíodh cheana: féachtar chuige go múchtaí fearais oifige nuair nach mbionn gá leo agus deimhnítear ag deireadh an lae oibre go bhfuil gach fearas múchta don oíche agus nuair nach mbítear san oifig. Cuirtear úsáid fuinnimh san áireamh mar chritéar nuair a bhíonn trealamh leictreonach á roghnú don oifig nó tairiscintí ar threalamh á meas.

GNÍOMHARTHA ATÁ BEARTAITHE DO 2018

Leanfar de na beartais sábhála fuinnimh atá tionscanta cheana féin agus déanfar monatóireacht rialta ar úsáid leictreachais i gcaitheamh na bliana 2018.

NOCHTADH COSANTA

Tá an t-eolas seo a leanas á thabhairt i gcomhréir le halt 22(1) den Acht um Nochtadh Cosanta, 2014.

Ní dhearnadh aon nochtadh cosanta le hOifig an Choimisinéara Teanga le linn na bliana 2017.

ENERGY

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

OVERVIEW OF ENERGY USAGE IN 2017

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. This includes the heating and aeration of the building, water heating, lighting and the use of office equipment.

In 2017, the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga consumed 62.03 MWh of electricity. This was almost on a par with 2016 (62.13 MWh).

ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017

The established energy-saving practices were continued: ensuring that all equipment is turned off when not in use and examining the office at the end of every working day to ensure that lights and equipment are switched off overnight and when the building is not occupied. Energy consumption is used as a criterion in choosing electronic equipment and in evaluating tenders for equipment.

ACTIONS PLANNED FOR 2018

The Office will continue the energy-saving policies already initiated and it is intended to monitor electricity consumption on a regular basis during 2018.

PROTECTED DISCLOSURE

The following information is provided in accordance with section 22(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014.

No protected disclosures were made to the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga during 2017.

FOIREANN

STAFF

An Coimisinéir Teanga

Ar an 12 Márta 2014, cheap Uachtarán na hÉireann, Micheál D. Ó hUigínn, Rónán Ó Domhnaill mar Choimisinéir Teanga

On 12 March 2014, the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, appointed Rónán Ó Domhnaill as Coimisinéir Teanga.

Rónán Ó Domhnaill



Stiúrthóir Director

Colm Ó Coisdealbha



Bainisteoir Cumarsáide *Communications Manager*

Órla de Búrca



Bainisteoir Imscrúduithe *Investigations Manager*

Éamonn Ó Bróithe



Bainisteoir Géilliúlachta *Compliance Manager*

Eileen Seoighe



Bainisteoir Gnótháí Corparáideacha *Corporate Affairs Manager*

Nóirín Sheoige



Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin *Executive Officer*

Gráinne Ní Shúilleabháin



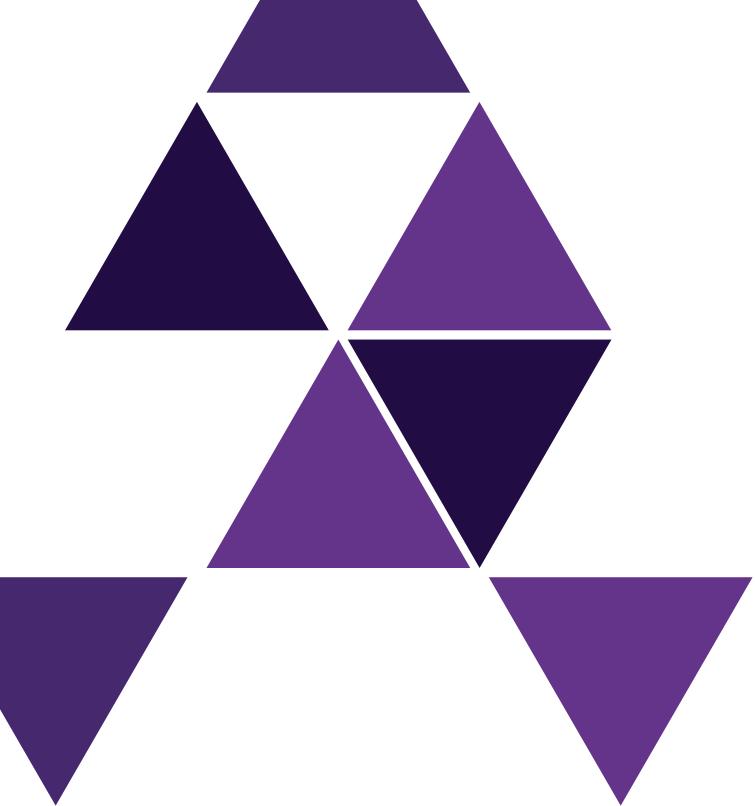
Oifigeach Cléireachais* *Clerical Officer**

Ciara Dolphin



*Bhí Deirdre Nic Dhonncha mar Oifigeach Cléireachais san Oifig ó Eanáir go Meitheamh.

*Deirdre Nic Dhonncha was a Clerical Officer in the Office from January to June.



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