



**Ráiteas Preas: EMBARGO 15.00**

Dáta: 06/12/2023

Ábhar: **Ceapachán Shéamas Ó Concheanainn ina Choimisinéir Teanga**



Cheap Uachtarán na hÉireann, Micheál D. Ó hUiginn Séamas Ó Concheanainn inniu ina Choimisinéir Teanga. I ndiaidh do Thithe an Oireachtais glacadh le rún de chuid an Rialtais, chuir an tUachtarán a lámh le ceapachán an Uasail Uí Choncheanainn in Áras an Uachtaráin inniu.

Tagann Séamas i gcomharbacht ar Rónán Ó Domhnaill a chaith naoi mbliana mar Choimisinéir Teanga sular ceapadh i measc na gCoimisinéirí i gCoimisiún na Meán é ag tús na bliana seo.

Ar ócáid a cheapacháin, dúirt Séamas Ó Concheanainn:

“Tá mé ag súil go mór leis an deis i mo ról mar Choimisinéir Teanga tionchar suntasach a imirt ar mhéadú agus ar fheabhsú na seirbhísí poiblí atá á gcur ar fáil trí Ghaeilge ag eagraíochtaí stáit. Is deascála é go bhfuil reachtaíocht teanga leasaithe (Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021) ag teacht i bhfeidhm i láthair na huaire leis na cearta teanga atá ag pobal na Gaeilge a láidriú. Tá gealltanais shuntasacha sa reachtaíocht teanga nua, ar nós an Plean Náisiúnta a leagfaidh amach cur chuige na hearnála poiblí, a chuimsíonn breis agus 500 comhlacht poiblí, le freastal cóir agus cothrom a dheánamh ar phobal na Gaeilge, sa Ghaeltacht agus go náisiúnta. Beidh feidhmiú na ngealltanais maidir le dóthain foirne le cumas sa Ghaeilge a bheith ar fáil do sholáthar na seirbhísí poiblí nua criticiúil freisin. Teastóidh beart náisiúnta ina mbeidh ról lárnach ag an earnáil ardoideachais trí Ghaeilge leis an acmhainn dhaonna a sholáthar, d’fhíorú na gcearta teanga atá sa reachtaíocht leasaithe.”

Ag labhairt dó ar fhorálacha atá tagtha i bhfeidhm cheana dúirt an Coimisinéir nuacheaptha:

“Tá fáilte mhór le cur roimh an mborradh follasach faoi fhógraíocht Ghaeilge ar na meáin chumarsáide éagsúla. Leagann alt 10A. (Fógraíocht ag Comhlachtaí Poiblí) dualgas reachtúil ar chomhlachtaí poiblí sciar suntasach dá gcuid fógraíochta a dhéanamh i nGaeilge. Is den tábhacht é go mbeadh an Ghaeilge á saothrú mar mheán plé agus dioscúrsa san uile réim poiblí.”

As Baile an tSagairt, an Spidéal i gContae na Gaillimhe do Shéamas Ó Concheanainn. Tá achar trí bliana caite aige ag obair mar Stúirthóir ar Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga. Roimhe sin, bhí sé ina Riarthóir ar Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge (Ollscoil na Gaillimhe), i gCarna, mar a raibh sé ag plé le fearainn na hacadúlachta agus bainistíochta araon. Is iomaí ábhar taighde teangabhunaithe ar chuir Séamas faoi réir le linn a chuid ama ina measc Fios Físe, tionscadal taighde náisiúnta a bunaíodh d'fhonn tomhas a dhéanamh ar an tóir agus ar an éileamh atá ag pobal abhartha na Gaeilge ar TG4. Tá spéis ar leith aige sa bpleanáil teanga agus sa bhforbairt pobail agus sealanna éagsúla caite aige thar na mblianta ag obair go deonach le raon leathan eagraíochtaí agus coistí pobail.

Seo an chéad uair ar fógraíodh folúntas an Choimisinéara Teanga mar chomórtas earcaíochta, oscailte don phobal.

Téarma 6 bliana atá sa cheapachán mar Choimisinéir Teanga.

Tuilleadh eolais le fáil ach teagmháil a dhéanamh le:

Páidí Ó Lionáird, Bainisteoir Cumarsáide – 087 9092101 / [paidi@coimisineir.ie](mailto:paidi@coimisineir.ie)

\*\*\*Aistriúchán faoi iamh\*\*\*



**Press Release EMBARGO 16.00**

Date: 06/12/2023

Subject: **Appointment of Séamas Ó Concheanainn as Choimisinéir Teanga**



President Michael D. Higgins today appointed Séamas Ó Concheanainn as Coimisinéir Teanga. His nomination by the Government having been accepted by both Houses of the Oireachtas, President

Higgins presented Mr Ó Concheanainn with his Seal of Office at a ceremony at Áras an Uachtaráin today.

Séamas Ó Concheanainn succeeds Rónán Ó Domhnaill, who spent 9 years as Coimisinéir Teanga before being appointed among the Commissioners at Coimisiún na Meán in the Spring of this year.

On his appointment, Mr Ó Concheanainn said:

“I look forward to the opportunity to make a significant contribution as Coimisinéir Teanga to improving the public services provided by public bodies through Irish to the Irish speaking community. It is a welcome development that the amended language legislation (Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 2021) is currently coming into effect to strengthen the language rights of the Irish-speaking community. The new language legislation includes significant commitments such as a National Plan setting out the public sector's (comprising more than 500 public bodies) approach, to ensuring that the language rights of the Irish-speaking community are met. It will be critical to have sufficient human resources with proficiency in Irish to deliver the new public services. A national effort will be required, including a central role for the Irish-medium higher-education sector in providing the qualified staff that public bodies will require for the realisation of the language rights prescribed in the amended legislation.”

Speaking to the provisions that have already been commenced, the newly appointed Coimisinéir said:

“I greatly welcome the evident increase in Irish language advertising across all media platforms. Section 10A (Advertising by Public Bodies) places statutory responsibilities on Public Bodies to place a significant portion of their advertising through Irish. It is important that the Irish language is central as a discursive medium in the public sphere.”

A native of An Spidéal in County Galway Séamas Ó Concheanainn has spent three years working as Director of Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga. Prior to that, he held the position of Director of Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge's Gaeltacht Centre in Carna, Co. Galway, where he had both academic and management responsibilities. Séamas has also been involved in various Irish language-based research topics, including Fios Físe, a national research project that aimed to measure the popularity of TG4 among the Irish-speaking community. He has a particular interest in language planning and community development and has volunteered with a wide range of organisations and community committees over the years.

This is the first time the position of An Coimisinéir Teanga has been filled following a public recruitment campaign.

The appointment of An Coimisinéir Teanga is for a term of 6 years.

Further information available from:

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