

TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2006  
ANNUAL REPORT



  
An Coimisinéir Teanga



# TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2006

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Don Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

De réir Alt 30 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 tá an tuarascáil seo don bhliain 2006 á cur i láthair ag an gCoimisinéir Teanga.

### To the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

In accordance with Section 30 of the Official Languages Act 2003, this report for the year 2006 is being presented by An Coimisinéir Teanga.



*Seán Ó Cuirreáin*

Seán Ó Cuirreáin  
An Coimisinéir Teanga  
Márta / March 2007

“

“Creideann an Rialtas go bhfuil tábhacht ar leith ag baint leis an nGaeilge do phobal, do shochaí agus do chultúr na hÉireann. Baineann an Ghaeilge leis an tír seo amháin mar theanga labhartha pobail agus tá buntábhacht ag baint léi mar sin d’fhéiniúlacht phobal na hÉireann agus d’oidhreacht dhomhanda.”

Réamhrá an Ráitis Rialtais i leith na Gaeilge 2006.

“Is mian de chuid an Rialtais í freisin a chinntiú go mbeidh úsáid na Gaeilge nó an Bhéarla mar rogha ag an saoránach, chomh fada agus is féidir, i ndioscúrsa poiblí agus i seirbhísí poiblí agus de réir a chéile go ndéanfaidh níos mó daoine ar fud an Stáit cinneadh a ngnó a dhéanamh trí mheán na Gaeilge.”

Fis an Ráitis Rialtais i leith na Gaeilge 2006

“Seasfar leis an stádas faoi leith atá ag an nGaeilge sa Bhunreacht agus i ndlíthe na tíre ar nós Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, An tAcht Oideachais 1998, An tAcht um Phleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 agus An tAcht um Chraolacháin 2001.”

“Cuirfear Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla i bhfeidhm go hiomlán. Forbrófar cearta an phobail an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus iad ag plé leis an Stát agus le dreamanna eile agus déanfar socruithe cuí chun é seo a chur i bhfeidhm.”

Cuspóirí an Ráitis Rialtais i leith na Gaeilge 2006 ”



“

The Government believes that the Irish language is of particular importance for the people, society and culture of Ireland. As a spoken community language, Irish is unique to this country and is, therefore, of crucial importance to the identity of the Irish people and to world heritage.”

Preamble to the Government Statement on the Irish Language 2006

“The Government also aims to ensure that in public discourse and in public services the use of Irish or English will be, as far as practical, a choice for the citizen to make and that over time more and more people throughout the State will choose to do their business in Irish.”

Vision section of the Government Statement on the Irish Language 2006

“The special status given to the Irish Language in the Constitution and in legislation such as the Official Languages Act 2003, the Education Act 1998, the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Broadcasting Act 2001, will be upheld.”

“The Official Languages Act will be fully implemented. The right of the public to use Irish in dealings with the State and with other bodies will be developed and the appropriate arrangements to deliver this will be put in place.”

Objectives of the Government Statement on the Irish Language 2006 ”

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## RÁITEAS MISIN MISSION STATEMENT

### “Ag cosaint cearta teanga”

Seirbhís neamhspleách  
d'ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil i  
gcomhlíonadh ár ndualgais  
reachtúil le cinntiú go ndéanann  
an státchóras 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 neamhchlaonta.

Eolas soiléir, cruinn a chur ar fáil:

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

### “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 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.

### Briathar agus Gníomh

Ba í an bhliain 2006 an dara bliain iomlán i mbun feidhme ag Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga ach níor tháinig forálacha iomlána Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 i bhfeidhm go dtí lár na bliana sin.

Ní raibh fós, áfach, éifeacht iomlán ag an reachtaíocht agus ní bheidh go mbeidh rialacháin déanta faoin Acht i dtaca le húsáid na Gaeilge i bhfógraíocht, comharthaíocht, stáiseanáireacht agus fógairtí béil agus go mbeidh céatadán suntasach scéimeanna teanga daingnithe faoin Acht.

Bliain thábhachtach a bhí in 2006 d'Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga agus do chúrsaí Gaeilge go ginearálta.

I measc phointí suntais na bliana i dtaca le cúrsaí teanga bhí foilsíú ráiteas fise an Rialtais i leith na Gaeilge – an chéad cheann dá leithéid le c.40 bliain – foilsíú an chéad Chairte Cearta Teanga, feidhmiú fhorálacha uile na reachtaíochta teanga, bailchríoch na socruithe do theacht i bhfeidhm stádas oifigiúil oibre na Gaeilge san Aontas Eorpach ar 1 Eanáir 2007, an staidéar teangeolaíochta ar na limistéir Ghaeltachta, comóradh 10 mbliana bhunú an nuachtáin Foinse agus na seirbhíse teilifíse TG4 agus comóradh 20 bliain bhunú an chlár cúrsaí reatha “Adhmhaidin” ar RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta.

Tháinig méadú as cuimse ar gach gné d'obair Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga le linn na bliana.

Tháinig glanmhéadú 47% ar líon iomlán na ngearán, fadhbanna agus deacrachtaí a cuireadh i láthair na hOifige le linn na bliana i gcomparáid leis an mbliain 2005.

Ní gá go gciallódh an méadú sin go raibh titim ar líon nó ar chaighdeán na seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a bhí á dtairiscint ag eagraíochtaí stáit, ach go raibh méadú ar thuiscint an phobail ar a gcearta chun gnóthaí a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge agus gearáin acu nuair a chonacthas dóibh go raibh deacrachtaí nó fadhbanna lena leithéid.

Go deimhin, is cosúil go bhfuil feabhas ag teacht ar sholáthar seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge i gcuid mhaith eagraíochtaí stáit de réir mar atá tuiscint ag méadú ar fheidhmeanna na reachtaíochta.

### Word and Deed

2006 was the second full year in operation for Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, although the full provisions of the Official Languages Act 2003 only came in to force in the middle of that year.

The legislation had not yet, however, reached its full effect, nor will it, until regulations in relation to the use of Irish in advertising, signage, stationery and public announcements are made under the Act and until a significant percentage of public bodies have agreed language schemes under the Act.

2006 was an important year for Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga and for Irish language issues in general.

Significant milestones during the year included the publication of the Government vision statement on the Irish language – the first such statement in c.40 years – the publication of the first language rights charter, the commencement of all the provisions of the language legislation, the completion of arrangements for the commencement of official working status for Irish in the European Union on 1 January 2007, the continuation of the sociolinguistic study of the Gaeltacht, the 10th anniversary of the launch of the newspaper Foinse and of TG4 as well as the 20th anniversary of the launch of the RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta morning news programme “Adhmhaidin.”

There was a substantial increase in every aspect of the work of Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga during the year.

The total number of complaints, problems and difficulties brought to the attention of the Office in 2006 increased by 47% compared to the previous year.

This did not necessarily reflect a decrease in the provision of public services through Irish, but rather an increase in public awareness of the right to access certain public services through Irish which led to complaints where problems or difficulties were encountered.

It would certainly appear that there has been an enhancement in the provision of customer services through Irish in many state organisations as awareness of the provisions of the language legislation increases.



## RÉAMHRÁ

Ach léiríonn cuid mhór de na gearáin a cuireadh i láthair na hOifige le linn na bliana 2006 – agus a bhfuil trácht déanta ar chuid bheag acu sna CÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE sa tuarascáil seo – an bhearna mhór a bhíonn ann in amanna agus i gcásanna áirithe idir briathar agus gníomh i dtaca le cúrsaí Gaeilge. Ní gá ach domán acu a lua.

Tráth a bhfuil cosaint bhunreachtúil ag an teanga, reachtaíocht teanga achaithe, agus ráiteas suntasach Rialtais i leith na Gaeilge foilsithe, is deacair a chreidiúint go bhféadfadh fadhbanna a bheith ag daoine clárú lena seoladh baile trí Ghaeilge ar chlár na dtoghthóirí, go bhféadfadh moill fhada a bheith ar fhoilsiú leagan Gaeilge de threoirínte rithábachtacha ar chosaint leanaí, go bhféadfadh amhras a bheith fágtha faoi bhailíocht achtachán ar chosaint oidhreacht, nó gur chosúl go mbeadh aird ar sheirbhísí áirithe a thairiscint i dteangacha iasachtacha (rud inmholta ann féin) ach neamhaird á déanamh ag an am céanna ar sholáthar na seirbhísí céanna sin trí Ghaeilge.

Is ceart a rá, áfach, nár bhain ach cuid de na gearáin chun na hOifige le linn na bliana 2006 le sárú ar dhualgaís reachtúla faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus gur bhain tuilleadh le deacrachtaí agus fadhbanna níos ginearálta gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge le heagraíochtaí stáit tráth a raibh tús feidhme á thabhairt don reachtaíocht nua seo. Bhí sé mar straitéis eatramhach ag an Oifig go dtí go dtiocfadh éifeacht iomlán na reachtaíochta i bhfeidhm déileáil leis na fadhbanna agus gearáin seo de réir “spiorad” na reachtaíochta le hoiread cabhrach agus ab fhéidir a sholáthar don chuid sin den phobal a mheas go raibh cúis gearáin acu.

Is mór ag an Oifig an chabhair a fuarthas ó chuid mhaith eagraíochtaí stáit le réiteach a aimsiú ar ghearáin éagsúla.

Is trua a rá, áfach, go raibh roinnt theoranta samplaí ann de chásanna inar léiríodh an dearcadh íostach maidir leis an leibhéal seirbhíse ba cheart a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge ar bhealach a léirigh easpa móraigeantachta i dtaca le seirbhísí do chustaiméirí i bpríomhtheanga oifigiúil an stáit.

## FOREWORD

However, many of the complaints directed to the Office during 2006 – and the SELECTED CASES in this report detail a small number of them – reflect at times and in specific instances a significant gap between word and deed in relation to Irish language issues.

At a stage when the language enjoys constitutional protection, with legislation enacted and a significant vision statement issued by the Government, it might appear difficult to believe that members of the public would be refused inclusion on the register of electors under the Irish version of their addresses, that there would be an extensive delay in the publication of the Irish language version of very important child protection guidelines, that the validity of enactments in relation to natural heritage protection would be left in doubt or that the provision of certain services in foreign languages (a worthwhile endeavour in itself) would take precedence over the provision of such services in Irish.

It should be noted, however, that only a certain proportion of the complaints to the Office during 2006 were in relation to specific breaches of the Official Languages Act while other problems and difficulties were of a more general nature concerning interactions through Irish with state organisations at this introductory stage of the legislation. The interim strategy of the Office, until the legislation has full effect, is to provide as much help as possible within the “spirit” of the legislation to those who encountered problems and difficulties in accessing state services in Irish.

The assistance provided to the Office by many state bodies in resolving such complaints during 2006 is greatly appreciated.

It is, however, unfortunate that in a limited number of cases a minimalist approach was adopted in relation to the level of services provided through Irish reflecting an absence of any generosity of spirit in relation to customer services in the first official language of the state.

Ach tráth a bhfuil forbairt ag teacht go ginearálta ar raon agus ar chaighdeán na seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge ó eagraíochtaí stáit, is é tuairim na hOifige go bhfuil sé riachtanach go mbeadh eagraíochtaí stáit i bhfad níos réamhghníomhaí ag cur a gcustaiméirí ar an eolas faoi na roghanna atá acu cuid dá ngnóthaí a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge.

Mura dtuigtear go bhfuil rogha teanga dháiríre á tairiscint do chustaiméir is léir gur deacair a bheith ag súil go dtiocfaidh méadú ar an éileamh ar sheirbhísí trí Ghaeilge.

Rómhinic a bhraitear gur in aghaidh a dtola, go mífhonnmhar nó go drogallach a chuirtear seirbhísí áirithe trí Ghaeilge ar fáil agus go mbaineann anró nó dua breise lena lorg.

Ar an láimh eile, is minic a fhágann baill den phobal a mianta agus a gcearta chun gnóthaí a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge ar leataobh de bharr go mbraitheann siad go gcothóidh a leithéid d'éileamh míchompord, cantal nó míchaoithiúlacht.

Ach níl aon amhras faoi, má tá áit agus spás le cruthú do theanga dhúchais na tíre i gcúrsaí riaracháin phoiblí go gcaithfear a bheith níos réamhghníomhaí ag tairiscint seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge do chustaiméirí leis an éileamh ar na seirbhísí sin a threisiú i measc an phobail.

Díol suntais agus comhartha dearfach é an méadú suntasach 45% a tháinig le linn na bliana 2006 ar an líon uaireanta a d'iarr eagraíochtaí stáit comhairle ar Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga i dtaca lena ndualgais teanga faoin reachtaíocht.

Ní miste a mheabhúrú arís agus arís eile nach bhfuil aon bhuntáiste ná sochar ar leith á lorg ag an té a roghnódh a chuid gnóthaí a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge agus go bhfuil na seirbhísí céanna ar fáil trí Bhéarla gan cheist ag an gcuid sin den phobal a roghnódh an teanga sin.

Mheasfaí gur bunfhíric de chuid an tsaoil mhóir í, i gcás teanga oifigiúil stáit, má ghlactar leis go bhfuil sé de cheart ag duine an teanga dhúchais sin a thógáil óna mhuintir nó í a fhoghlaim, go leanann sé go nádúrtha go mbeadh sé de cheart aige/aici an teanga sin a úsáid agus é/í ag déileáil leis an státchóras.

At a time when the range and quality of customer services through Irish provided by state organisations is being enhanced, it is the evident to this Office that a more proactive approach is called for in informing customers of their option of doing at least some of their business through Irish.

If customers are unaware that they really have an option in relation to their choice of language it is difficult to foresee an increase in the demand for services in Irish.

The perception all too often is that such services in Irish are provided reluctantly, grudgingly, or unwillingly and to avail of them will cause inconvenience or additional hassle.

On the other hand, members of the public have often left their language choice and rights aside on the basis that they sense that such requests may cause discomfort, anxiety or even anger.

However, there is no doubt that if a place and space is to be created in public administration for the Irish language then there is a need to be more proactive in the provision of customer services in Irish in order to stimulate the public demand for such services.

The substantial increase of 45% during 2006 in the number of requests to the Office for advice or briefings by state organisations in relation to their language obligations reflects a positive note.

It is also worth emphasising again and again that no additional benefit or advantage is sought by those who would choose to do their business through Irish and that the services at issue are already available without question to those whose language of choice is English.

It would be perceived as fundamentally just in the case of an official language of a state, that if there is a right to acquire or learn the language then it ordinarily follows that there must also be a right to use that language in dealing with the state system.



## CÚLRA EOLAIS

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Ba í an bhliain 2006 an chéad bhliain iomlán i mbun feidhme ag Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga ina raibh gach foráil d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 i bhfeidhm.**

Ar 14 Iúil 2006 tháinig gach foráil den Acht nach raibh tagtha i bhfeidhm le hordú Aire roimhe sin i bhfeidhm go hoifigiúil. Chiallaigh sin go raibh bunús reachtúil ón data sin ar aghaidh le gach foráil de chuid an Achta ach níor chiallaigh sé éifeacht iomlán a bheith leis an reachtaíocht fós.

Tugtar údarás faoin Acht don Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta rialacháin a dhéanamh agus scéimeanna teanga a dhaingniú faoin Acht.

Ag deireadh 2006 ní raibh rialacháin tugtha i bhfeidhm faoi Alt 9(1) den Acht i taca le húsáid na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla i bhfógraíocht, stáiseanóireacht, fogairtí béil agus comharthaíocht na gcomhlachtaí poiblí, cé go raibh dréachtrialacháin foilsithe agus curtha faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais.

Le linn na bliana freisin dhaingnigh an tAire tuilleadh scéimeanna teanga faoin Acht a d'fhág go raibh 43 scéim a chlúdaigh 71 comhlacht poiblí daingnithe faoi dheireadh 2006.

Tá, áfach, c.650 comhlacht poiblí a thagann faoi scáth na reachtaíochta agus cé nach mbíonn an phráinn chéanna ag baint le scéimeanna a dhaingniú i gcás comhlachtaí poiblí beaga nach bhfuil caidreamh rómhór acu le sciar suntasach den phobal, is léir go bhfuil cuid mhór scéimeanna teanga le comhaontú agus le daingniú fós.

Ní féidir éifeacht iomlán na reachtaíochta a mheas go mbeidh na rialacháin ar fad faoin Acht déanta agus scéimeanna teanga daingnithe i gcás sciar an-suntasach de na comhlachtaí poiblí.

**2006 was the first year of the operation of the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga in which all the provisions of the Official Languages Act 2003 were in force.**

Any provision of the legislation not already commenced by ministerial order came in to effect on 14 July 2006. That meant that from that date on, every provision of the Act had statutory basis although it did not mean that the legislation was yet in full effect.

The Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is authorised under the Act to make regulations and to have language schemes confirmed.

By the end of 2006 regulations had not yet been made under section 9(1) of the Act in relation to the use of Irish and English in the advertising, stationery, oral announcements and signage of state organisations although draft regulations were published and brought before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

During the year additional language schemes under the Act confirmed by the Minister brought to 43 the number in place by the end of 2006. This covered a total of 71 public bodies.

There are, however, almost 650 public bodies under the aegis of the legislation and although the same urgency need not apply to having schemes confirmed in the case of smaller public bodies which may not have much dealings with large sections of the public it is clear that a significant number of language schemes have yet to be agreed and confirmed.

The full effect of the legislation cannot be evaluated until the regulations are made under the Act and language schemes confirmed in a very significant share of state organisations.

## CÚLRA EOLAIS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Cúlra stairiúil na hOifige

Cheap an tUachtarán mé mar Choimisinéir Teanga go foirmiúil an 23 Feabhra 2004 ar chomhairle an Rialtais tar éis do Dháil Éireann agus do Sheanad Éireann rún a rith ag moladh an cheapacháin.

Cuireadh tús gan mhoill ina dhiaidh sin le bunú na hOifige agus tá tuairisc ar obair na chéad tréimhse 10 mí go deireadh na bliana 2004 ar fáil sa Tuarascáil Tionscnaimh 2004 agus ar obair na bliana 2005 i dTuarascáil Bhliantúil 2005.

Oifig neamhspleách reachtúil í Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga a bhfuil sé mar chúram uirthi monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an mbealach a bhfuil forálacha Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 á gcomhlíonadh ag comhlachtaí poiblí an Stáit, agus le gach beart riachtanach a dhéanamh chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíonfaidh comhlachtaí poiblí a ndualgais faoin Acht.

Fiosraíonn an Oifig gearáin ón bpobal i gcásanna ina gcreidtear go bhfuil teipthe ar chomhlachtaí poiblí a ndualgais a chomhlíonadh faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 nó faoi aon achtachán eile a bhaineann le stádas nó le húsáid na Gaeilge.

Cuireann an Oifig comhairle ar fáil don phobal maidir lena gcearta teanga agus comhairle ar na comhlachtaí poiblí maidir lena ndualgais teanga faoin Acht.

Tá sé mar chuspóir ag Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 a chinntiú go soláthróidh an tseirbhís phoiblí seirbhísí Gaeilge níos líonmhaise agus ar chaighdeán níos airde thar thréimhse ama.

Bheadh súil go mbeadh sé mar thoradh ar fheidhmiú an Achta go gcruthófaí spás nua don Ghaeilge i gcóras riaracháin phoiblí na tíre. Is léiriú é ar chuid amháin d'aidhm teanga an Stáit mar thaca leis na hiarrachtaí eile an teanga a chur chun cinn san oideachas, sa chraoltóireacht, sna healaíona, i saol na Gaeltachta agus i gcúrsaí an tsaoil go ginearálta.

### Historical background of the Office

The President formally appointed me as Coimisinéir Teanga on the 23 February 2004 on the advice of Government following a resolution passed by Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann recommending the appointment.

The process of establishing the new Office began soon afterwards and a report on the work done in this first ten month period until the end of 2004 is available in the Inaugural Report 2004. An account of the activities in the following year is available in the Annual Report 2005.

The Office of the Coimisinéir Teanga is a independent statutory Office whose responsibility it is to monitor the manner in which the State's public bodies comply with the provisions of The Official Languages Act 2003, and to take all necessary measures to ensure that public bodies fulfil their obligations under the Act.

The Office investigates complaints from the public in cases where it is believed that public bodies may have failed to fulfil their obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 or under any other enactment which deals with the use or status of Irish.

The Office provides advice to the public about their language rights and to public bodies about their obligations under the Act.

The primary objective of the Act is to ensure the provision of additional and higher quality services through Irish by the public service.

It is expected that the implementation of the Act will create new space for the language within the public administration of the country. It forms one element of the State's support of the language, the main thrust of which is to promote Irish in education, broadcasting, the arts, Gaeltacht life and in public life generally.

## ÓRÁIDÍ, LÉACHTAÍ AGUS SEIMINEÁIR SPEECHES, LECTURES AND SEMINARS



*Ceann Foirne Óglaigh na hÉireann, an Leifteanantghinearál Jim Sreenan, Seán Ó Cuirreáin agus an Leifteanantchoirméal Diarmuid Ó Mórdha ag seimineár teanga ar an Rinn Mhór, Gaillimh.*

*Defence Forces Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Jim Sreenan, Seán Ó Cuirreáin and Lieutenant Colonel Diarmuid Ó Mórdha at a language seminar in Renmore, Galway.*

Ar cheann d'fheidhmeanna na hOifige tá comhairle a sholáthar don phobal maidir lena gcearta teanga faoin Acht agus do chomhlachtaí poiblí maidir lena ndualgais faoin Acht.

Mar chuid den obair i gcomhlíonadh na bhfeidhmeanna sin bhí an Oifig gníomhach i gclár leathan d'ócáidí poiblí i rith na bliana ina raibh óráidí, léachtaí agus seimineáir ar théamaí éagsúla a bhain le cúrsaí teanga.

Le linn na bliana labhair mé ag 35 ócáid phoiblí agus ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leo siúd ar fad a thug cuireadh dom a bheith páirteach sna hócáidí éagsúla sin.

Seo a leanas liosta de na príomhócáidí sin ina raibh mé páirteach le linn na bliana 2006:

### ÓRÁIDÍ, LÉACHTAÍ AGUS SEIMINEÁIR

20 Eanáir 2006

Léacht ag Comhdháil Chumann Ionaid Teanga na nOllscoileanna (AULC) in Ollscoil na Ríona, Béal Feirste, Co. Aontroma.

21 Eanáir 2006

Óráid agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár náisiúnta de chraobhacha Chonradh na Gaeilge, Gaillimh.

24 Eanáir 2006

Léacht tráthnóna do mhic léinn in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Corcaigh.

24 Eanáir 2006

Léacht phoiblí agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Corcaigh.



It is one of the functions of the Office to provide information to the public regarding their language rights under the Act and to public bodies regarding their obligations under the Act.

An extensive programme of events was undertaken during the year involving addresses, lectures and seminars on language related topics at various public occasions.

During the year I spoke at 35 public functions and I would like to thank all those who invited me to participate in these various events.

The following is a list of the main events in which I participated during 2006.

### SPEECHES, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

20 January 2006

Lecture at a conference of the Association of University Language Centres in Queens University, Belfast.

21 January 2006

Address and questions/answers session at a national seminar of branches of Conradh na Gaeilge, Galway.

24 January 2006

Evening lecture for students in National University, Cork.

24 January 2006

Public lecture and questions/answers session in University College, Cork.



## ÓRÁIDÍ, LÉACHTAÍ AGUS SEIMINEÁIR SPEECHES, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

### ÓRÁIDÍ, LÉACHTAÍ AGUS SEIMINEÁIR

8 Feabhra 2006

Léacht eagraithe ag an gCumann Gaelach, An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath.

27 Feabhra 2006

Óráid ag seoladh oifigiúil "Seachtain na Gaeilge 2006", Baile Átha Cliath.

9 Márta 2006

Léacht agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí do chúrsa in Áras Mháirtín Uí Chadhain, An Cheathrú Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe.

14 Márta 2006

Óráid agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár do chomhlachtaí poiblí a bhí ag ullmhú dréachtscéimeanna teanga, Baile Átha Cliath.

22 Márta 2006

Óráid agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár don ghréasán tacaíochta do chomhlachtaí poiblí a bhfuil scéimeanna teanga daingnithe acu, Baile Átha Cliath.

24 Márta 2006

Óráid agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár do chomhlachtaí poiblí ag Tóstal na Gaeilge 2006, Gaillimh.

24 Márta 2006

Óráid oscailte do Thóstal na Gaeilge 2006, Gaillimh.

20 Aibreán 2006

Óráid oscailte ar cheiliúradh céad bliain Cholaíste Uladh, Gort an Choirce, Co. Dhún na nGall.

24 Aibreán 2006

Óráid agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár do chomhlachtaí poiblí nua a bhí tugtha faoi scáth Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003.

3 Bealtaine 2006

Óráid ag ócáid lóin in Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath, Baile Átha Cliath.

8 Bealtaine 2006

Óráid agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár do chomhlachtaí poiblí a bhí ag ullmhú dréachtscéimeanna teanga, Baile Átha Cliath.

9 Bealtaine 2006

Léacht agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár eagraithe ag Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, Tamhlacht, Baile Átha Cliath.

### SPEECHES, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

08 February 2006

Lecture organised by An Cumann Gaelach, University College Dublin.

27 February 2006

Address at the official launch of "Seachtain na Gaeilge 2006", Dublin.

09 March 2006

Address and questions/answers session at a course in Áras Mháirtín Uí Chadhain, An Cheathrú Rua, Co. Galway.

14 March 2006

Address and questions/answers session at a seminar for public bodies preparing draft language schemes, Dublin.

22 March 2006

Address and questions/answers session at a seminar for the support network of public bodies who have language schemes confirmed, Dublin.

24 March 2006

Address and questions/answers session at a seminar for public bodies at Tóstal na Gaeilge 2006, Galway.

24 March 2006

Opening address at Tóstal na Gaeilge 2006, Galway.

20 April 2006

Opening address at the centenary celebration of Coláiste Uladh, Gort an Choirce, Co. Donegal.

24 April 2006

Address and questions/answers session at a seminar for new public bodies brought under the remit of the Official Languages Act 2003.

03 May 2006

Address at lunchtime function in Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin.

08 May 2006

Address and questions/answers session at a seminar for the support network of public bodies who were preparing draft language schemes, Dublin.

09 May 2006

Lecture and questions/answers session at a seminar organised by South Dublin County Council, Tallaght, Dublin.

## ÓRÁIDÍ, LÉACHTAÍ AGUS SEIMINEÁIR SPEECHES, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

### ÓRÁIDÍ, LÉACHTAÍ AGUS SEIMINEÁIR

12 Bealtaine 2006

Léacht agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár eagraithe ag grúpa pleanála teanga Chúige Mumhan i gcomhar le hOireachtas na Bealtaine, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.

13 Bealtaine 2006

Óráid agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár ar chúrsaí pleanála eagraithe ag Fóram Dhuibhneach, An Daingean, Co. Chiarraí.

23 Bealtaine 2006

Óráid ag ócáid bhronnta ghradaim na bliana, Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair, Co. Dhún na nGall.

24 Bealtaine 2006

Léacht agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár eagraithe ag Óglaigh na hÉireann, An Rinn Mhór, Gaillimh.

2 Meitheamh 2006

Léacht agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár eagraithe ag Glór na nGael, An Caisleán Nua, Co. Luimnigh.

14 Meitheamh 2006

Óráid oscailte do chomhdháil an Acadaimh Idirnáisiúnta ar Dhlí Teangacha, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.

28 Meitheamh 2006

Óráid ag ócáid seolta phoiblí na Cairte Cearta Teanga, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe.

13 Meán Fómhair 2006

Léacht agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár eagraithe ag Gaeleagras na Seirbhíse Poiblí, An Cheathrú Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe.

27 Meán Fómhar 2006

Óráid agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí do Chumann Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh na nGníomhaireachtaí Stáit.

18 Deireadh Fómhair 2006

Léacht agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag seimineár do chomhlachtaí poiblí eagraithe ag Elucidate Teoranta, Baile Átha Cliath.

7 Samhain 2006

Óráid ag ócáid bhronnta boinn óir an Choimisinéara Teanga in Fiontar, Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath, Baile Átha Cliath.

### SPEECHES, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

12 May 2006

Lecture and questions/answers session at a seminar organised by Munster language planning group in conjunction with Oireachtas na Bealtaine, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

13 May 2006

Address and questions/answers session at a planning issues seminar organised by Fóram Dhuibhneach, An Daingean, Co. Kerry.

23 May 2006

Address at the annual awards ceremony, Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair, Co. Donegal.

24 May 2006

Lecture and questions/answers session at a seminar organised by Óglaigh na hÉireann, Renmore, Galway.

02 June 2006

Lecture and questions/answers session at a seminar organised by Glór na nGael, Newcastle West, Limerick.

14 June 2006

Opening address at International Academy of Linguistic Law conference, National University of Ireland, Galway.

28 June 2006

Address at the public launch of the Language Rights Charter, An Spidéal, Co. Galway.

13 September 2006

Lecture and questions/answers session at seminar organised by Gaeleagras na Seirbhíse Poiblí, An Cheathrú Rua, Co. Galway.

27 September 2006

Address and questions/answers session for the Association of Chief Executives of State Agencies, Dublin.

18 October 2006

Lecture and questions/answers session at seminar for public bodies organised by Elucidate Ltd., Dublin.

07 November 2006

Address at presentation of An Coimisinéir Teanga gold medals in Fiontar, Dublin City University, Dublin.

## ÓRÁIDÍ, LÉACHTAÍ AGUS SEIMINEÁIR SPEECHES, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

### ÓRÁIDÍ, LÉACHTAÍ AGUS SEIMINEÁIR

*9 Samhain 2006*

Léacht do chúrsa i Léann an Aistriúcháin,  
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.

*16 Samhain 2006*

Léacht agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag  
comhdháil foirne de chuid na Roinne Gnóthaí  
Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh, Baile Átha Cliath.

*17 Samhain 2006*

Óráid oscailte do chomhdháil oideachais eagraithe  
ag Gaelscoileanna Teo., Maigh Nuad, Co. Chill Dara.

*28 Samhain 2006*

Léacht Bhord na Gaeilge 2006/7 in Ollscoil na  
hÉireann, Gaillimh.

*30 Samhain 2006*

Óráid agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag  
comhdháil idirnáisiúnta eagraithe ag Pobal, Béal  
Feirste, Co. Aontroma.

*8 Nollaig 2006*

Léacht agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí do chúrsa  
M.A. i gCleachtas Dátheangach in Fiontar, Ollscoil  
Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath, Baile Átha Cliath.

*13 Nollaig 2006*

Óráid agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag cruinniú  
de Choiste Uilepháirtí Chomhthionól na Breataine  
Bige ar Chúrsaí Cultúir, Teanga agus Spóirt,  
Caerdydd, An Bhreatain Bheag.

*14 Nollaig 2006*

Léacht agus seisiún ceisteanna/freagraí ag  
comhdháil foirne de chuid Bhord na Breatnaise,  
Caerdydd, An Bhreatain Bheag.

### SPEECHES, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

*09 November 2006*

Lecture at Translation Studies course,  
National University of Ireland, Galway.

*16 November 2006*

Lecture and questions/answers session at staff  
conference of the Department of Social and  
Family Affairs.

*17 November 2006*

Opening address at the education conference of  
Gaelscoileanna Teo., Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

*28 November 2006*

Bord na Gaeilge lecture 2006/7, National University  
of Ireland, Galway.

*30 November 2006*

Address and questions/answers session at  
international conference organised by Pobal, Belfast,  
Co Antrim.

*08 December 2006*

Lecture and questions/answers session for M.A.  
course in Bilingual Practice in Fiontar, Dublin City  
University, Dublin.

*13 December 2006*

Address and questions/answers session at meeting  
of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport  
Committee of the National Assembly of Wales,  
Cardiff, Wales.

*14 December 2006*

Lecture and questions/answers session at staff  
conference of the Welsh Language Board, Cardiff,  
Wales.



## NA MEÁIN CHUMARSÁIDE MEDIA



**Feidhmíonn an Oifig i gcomhar leis na meáin chumarsáide le heolas a scaipeadh ar an bpobal agus is mór agam comhoibriú na meán sa ghnó seo.**

Rinne iriseoirí de chuid na meán cumarsáide teagmháil liom ar 98 ócáid le linn 2006 le léargas a fháil ar ghnéithe d'obair na hOifige, ar fheidhmiú Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus ar cheisteanna gaolmhara.

Mar is gnách, ba bhaill de na meáin chumarsáide a fheidhmíonn trí Ghaeilge is mó a rinne teagmháil leis an Oifig le linn na bliana agus ba mhaith liom buíochas ar leith a ghabháil leosan.

Ar na meáin chumarsáide a rinne agallaimh liom nó a lorg faisnéis uaim le linn na bliana bhí:

Nuacht TG4, RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, The Irish Times, Foinse, Irish Examiner, Irish Independent, Lá, RTÉ Radio 1, Nuacht RTÉ, BBC World Service, Kyodo News (An tSeapáin), Connacht Tribune, Today FM, Raidió na Life, BBC Radio Ulster, BBC Northern Ireland, RTÉ 1, Sunday Business Post, Highland Radio, Donegal Democrat, Midwest Radio, The Kingdom, Irish Daily Mail.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil 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 tuairisceoireachta i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge.

**The Office works closely with the media in the provision of public information and I appreciate the media cooperation in this area.**

I was contacted on 98 occasions during the year by journalists for interviews or briefings on aspects of the work of the Office, the implementation of the Official Languages Act and on other related topics.

As usual, much of the media interest during the year came from journalists working through the medium of Irish and I offer my thanks to them in particular.

The media outlets that conducted interviews or sought information during the year included:

Nuacht TG4, RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, The Irish Times, Foinse, Irish Examiner, Irish Independent, Lá, RTÉ Radio 1, Nuacht RTÉ, BBC World Service, Kyodo News (Japan), Connacht Tribune, Today FM, Raidió na Life, BBC Radio Ulster, BBC Northern Ireland, RTÉ 1, Sunday Business Post, Highland Radio, Donegal Democrat, Midwest Radio, The Kingdom, Irish Daily Mail.

I would like to thank all the journalists who showed such interest in the work of the Office during 2006 and who helped to progress that work through their reports in English and in Irish.

## CUAIRTEANNA RÉIGIÚNACHA REGIONAL VISITS

Mar oifig náisiúnta atá lonnaithe i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe, níl aon amhras ach go bhfuil sé tábhachtach go mbeadh fáil ar bhaill den fhoireann ó thráth go chéile le casadh leis an bpobal trí chuairteanna réigiúnacha a thabhairt ar cheantair eile ar fud na tíre.

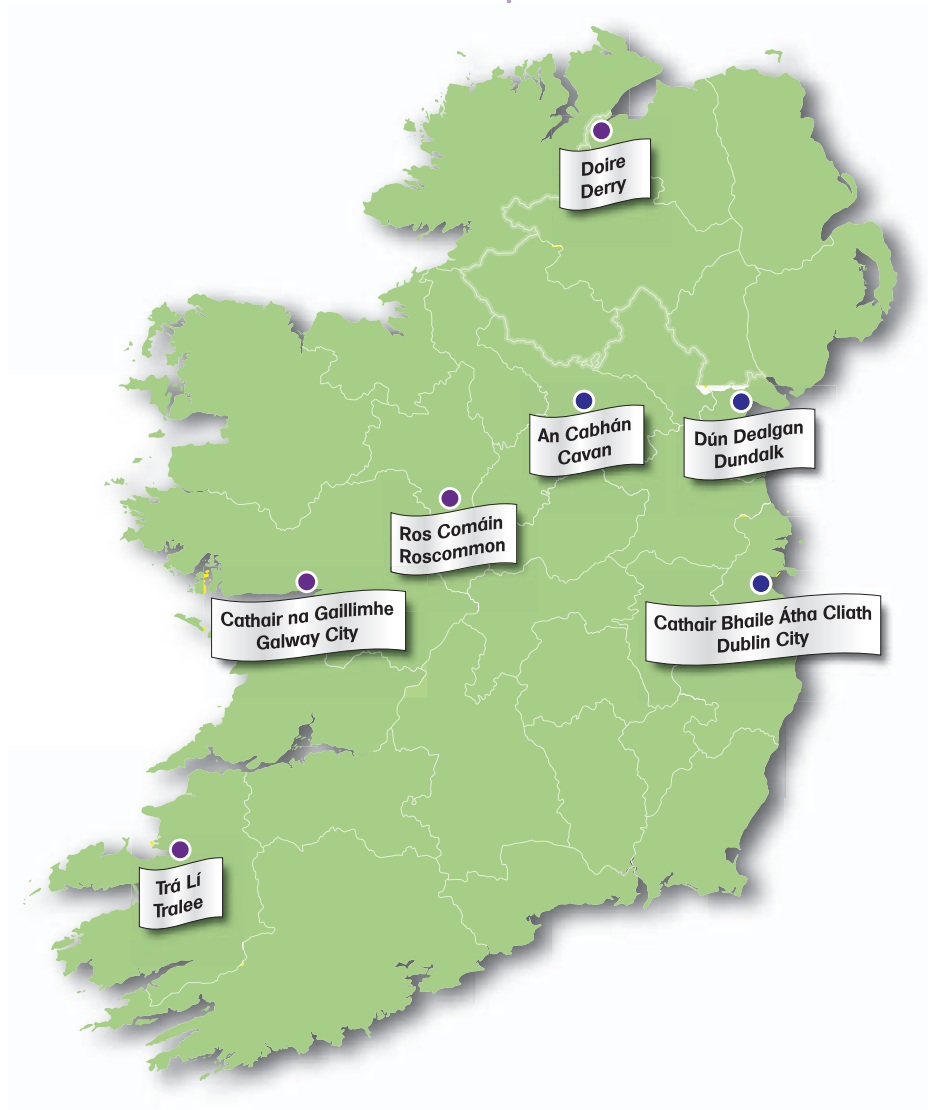
Tá sé mar pholasaí ag an Oifig cuairteanna réigiúnacha a dhéanamh i gcomhar le hócáidí i bhféilire na mórimeachtaí Gaelacha gach bliain.

Tugann seo deis d'oiread ball agus is féidir den phobal ceisteanna a tharraingt anuas linn faoi chearta teanga, nó gearáin a dhéanamh linn faoi dheacrachtaí le seirbhísí i nGaeilge.

As a national Office that is situated in the Galway Gaeltacht, it is important that members of staff should be available, from time to time, to meet the public through regional visits to other areas around the country.

It is the policy of the Office to arrange these visits to coincide with significant events in the Irish language calendar.

Visits of this nature give members of the public the opportunity to raise issues about language rights or to discuss difficulties in obtaining services through Irish.



## CUAIRTEANNA RÉIGIÚNACHA REGIONAL VISITS

Mar seo a leanas a bhí cuairteanna réigiúnacha na bliana 2006:

**Cathair na Gaillimhe : 24-25 Márta 2006**

– le linn Thóstal na Gaeilge, 2006.

**Dún Dealgan, Co. Lú : 7-8 Aibreán 2006**

– le linn Ard-Fheis Chonradh na Gaeilge.

**An Cabhán : 7-9 Aibreán 2006**

– le linn Gaelfest.

**Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí : 11-14 Bealtaine 2006**

– le linn Oireachtas na Bealtaine.

**Ros Comáin : 20-22 Deireadh Fómhair 2006**

– le linn Éigse de hÍde.

**Doire: 1-5 Samhain 2006**

– le linn Fhéile an Oireachtais, 2006

**Cathair Bhaile Átha Cliath : 21 Nollaig 2006**

– le linn ócáid Ghaelach i dTeach Farnleigh.

The following are the regional visits which were organised during 2006:

**Galway City : 24-25 March 2006**

– during Tóstal na Gaeilge, 2006.

**Dundalk, Co Louth : 7-8 April 2006**

– during Ard-Fheis Chonradh na Gaeilge.

**Cavan : 7-9 April 2006**

– during Gaelfest.

**Tralee, Co. Kerry : 11-14 May 2006**

– during Oireachtas na Bealtaine.

**Roscommon: 20-22 October 2006**

– during Éigse de hÍde.

**Derry : 1-5 November 2006**

– at Féile an Oireachtais, 2006.

**Dublin City : 21 December 2006**

– during an Irish language event in Farnleigh House.

# CAIRT CEARTA TEANGA LANGUAGE RIGHTS CHARTER



Baill den Chomhchoiste Oireachtais sa Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe.  
Members of the Oireachtas Joint Committee in An Spidéal, Co. Galway

Mar ullmhúchán do theacht i bhfeidhm na bhforálacha ar fad in Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla an 14 Iúil 2006, d'fhoilsigh m'Oifig Cairt Cearta Teanga a bhí curtha ar fáil mar phóstaer dátheangach ag ócáid sa Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe an 28 Meitheamh 2006.

Tá na deich mbuncheart teanga atá ar fáil de réir dlí do phobal na Gaeilge agus iad i mbun gnóthaí le heagraíochtaí stáit foilsithe sa chairt sin, ina measc, cearta i dtaca le húsáid na Gaeilge i ngnóthaí agus i ndoiciméid chúirte, i dTithe an Oireachtais, i gcomhfhreagras, i ndoiciméid thábhachtacha ar leith agus i gcora poist a eisíonn eagraíochtaí stáit.

Dáileadh cóipeanna den chairt ar eagraíochtaí stáit, scoileanna, leabharlanna, agus ar institiúidí agus ar fhoirgnimh phoiblí eile mar chuid d'fheachtas le tuiscint an phobail ar chearta teanga a mhéadú agus le tuilleadh deiseanna a chothú d'úsáid na Gaeilge i ngnóthaí poiblí na tíre.

Scaipeadh 20,000 cóip den chairt ina iomláine – cuid mhór acu i dteannta eagrán de na nuachtáin Foinse agus Lá.

Ar Cecilia Keaveney T.D., Cathaoirleach an Chomhchoiste Oireachtais a bhaineann le cúrsaí Gaeilge, a bronnadh an chéad chóip den Chairt Cearta Teanga. Bhí an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Éamon Ó Cuív T.D., i láthair ag an



In preparation for the full implementation of the provisions of the Official Languages Act on 14 July 2006 my Office launched a Language Rights Charter published as a bilingual poster at a function in An Spidéal, Co. Galway on 28 June 2006.

Ten basic rights accorded in law to Irish speakers in dealing with state organisations are published in the charter. They include the right to use Irish in court proceedings and documentation, in the Houses of the Oireachtas, in correspondence, and in specific key documents and mailshots issued by state organisations.

Copies of the charter were distributed to all state bodies, and to schools, libraries and other public buildings as part of a campaign to increase awareness of language rights and to create further opportunities for the use of Irish in the public affairs of the country.

20,000 copies of the charter were distributed in total, with copies included with editions of the newspapers Foinse and Lá.

The first copy of the Language Rights Charter was presented to Cecilia Keaveney T.D., Chairman of the Joint-Oireachtas Committee whose remit covers Irish language affairs. At the launch, the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív T.D., presented copies to

## CAIRT CEARTA TEANGA LANGUAGE RIGHTS CHARTER

ócáid seolta le cóipeanna a bhronnadh ar ionadaithe ó roinnt eagraíochtaí stáit, ina measc ranna rialtais, an Garda Síochána, na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim agus údaráis áitiúla, chomh maith le heagraíochtaí Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta.

Bhí ionadaithe ón gComhchoiste Oireachtais a bhaineann le cúrsaí Gaeilge i láthair don ócáid seolta agus le léargas a fháil ar theacht i bhfeidhm fhorálacha iomlána na reachtaíochta teanga agus ar obair na hOifige.

Ar fhoilsiú na cairte rinne The Irish Times/Ireland.com pobalbhreith nuachta le tuairim an phobail ina leith a mheas.

“An spreagfaidh foilsiú na chéad chairte cearta teanga in Éirinn úsáid na Gaeilge sa réimse poiblí?” an cheist a cuireadh. Léirigh breis agus beirt as gach triúr a chaith vóta sa phobalbhreith tuairim dhearfach.

68% a dúirt go spreagfadh foilsiú na cairte úsáid na Gaeilge sa réimse poiblí agus 32% den bharúil nach spreagfadh.



*An tAire Éamon Ó Cuív TD leis an Ard-Cheannfort Dónall Ó Cualáin, An Garda Síochána.*

*Minister Éamon Ó Cuív TD with Chief Superintendent Dónall Ó Cualáin, An Garda Síochána.*

representatives of a number of state bodies including government departments, An Garda Síochána, the Revenue Commissioners, local authorities, as well as Irish language and Gaeltacht organisations.

Representatives of the Joint-Committee were present at the launch and held discussions on the introduction of the full provisions of the language legislation and on the work of the Office.

Subsequent to the publication of the charter, The Irish Times/Ireland.com ran a news opinion poll to gauge public reaction to it.

“Will the publication of Ireland’s first language rights charter encourage the use of Irish in the public sphere?” was the question asked.

More than two out of three of those who voted in the opinion poll felt it would have a positive effect. 68% said that the publication of the charter would encourage the use of Irish in the public sphere while 32% felt that it would not.



## BOINN ÓIR GOLD MEDALS



*Bláthnaid Ní Ghréacháin & Pádraig Ó Ceitheamaigh*



**Cúis cheiliúrtha a bhí ann i nDeireadh Fómhair 2006 don chéad dream a bhain amach an chéim MA sa Chleachtas Dátheangach in Fiontar, Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath – cúrsa léinn a bhfuil ceangal ag m'Oifig leis.**

Bronnadh teastais agus céimeanna ar dheichniúr, agus tugadh aitheantas ar leith do bheirt chéimithe nuair a bronnadh Boinn Óir an Choimisinéara Teanga orthu as ucht na marcanna is airde a bhaint amach ina dtráchtas iarchéime.

Tá sé mar aidhm ag an gcúrsa MA sa Chleachtas Dátheangach a bhfuil Stiúrthóir Fhiontar, an Dr Peadar Ó Flatharta, ina cheannas oiliúint a chur ar fhoireann a bheadh ag obair sna heamálacha poiblí agus deonacha le seirbhís ardcháilíochta do chustaiméirí a bhainistiú agus a sholáthar go dátheangach, ag freagairt go háirithe do riachtanais Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Tugtar an t-eolas agus an scil is gá dóibhsean atá páirteach lena chinntiú go soláthrófar seirbhís ardcháilíochta dhátheangach don phobal a bheidh ag teacht le caighdeáin idimáisiúnta.



**In October 2006 I welcomed the graduation of the first group to complete an MA degree in Bilingual Practice in Fiontar, Dublin City University, a university course with which my Office is associated.**

Certificates and degrees were awarded to ten people and particular recognition was given to two who were awarded gold medals – Bonn Óir an Choimisinéara Teanga – for jointly receiving the highest marks in their postgraduate theses.

The aim of the MA course, of which Dr. Peadar Ó Flatharta is director, is to train staff working in the public and voluntary sectors in the management and delivery of quality bilingual customer service, and in particular to respond to the requirements of the Official Languages Act. This programme will provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure that the public is provided with a quality bilingual service according to international standards.



## BOINN ÓIR GOLD MEDALS

Tá áthas orm go bhfuil ceangal ag m'Oifig leis an gcúrsa seo ó tharla é a bheith fréamhaithe i gcur chun cinn fhorálacha Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003.

Bronnadh na boinn óir agus €1,000 don bhliain 2006 ar Phádraig Ó Ceithearnaigh agus ar Bhláthnaid Ní Ghréacháin.

Rinne an tUasal Ó Ceithearnaigh, atá ina Stiúrthóir Gníomhach ar Chomhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, staidéar ar an gcaoi ar feidhmíodh an tAcht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 i gceantair an Spidéil agus na bhForbacha i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe.

Bhain taighde Iníon Uí Ghréacháin, atá ina hArdfheidhmeannach ar Ghaelscoileanna, le pleanáil teanga ag leibhéal an phobail agus ról na Gaelscolaíochta.

Cúis áthais ar leith dom gur socraíodh na tráchtas a fuair na gradaim a fhoilsiú ar shuíomh gréasáin na hOllscoile mar go mbeadh deis ag an bpobal go ginearálta iad a léamh.

Creidim go bhfuil sé fíorthábhachtach go mbeadh buntaighde den chineál a spreagann an cúrsa seo á dhéanamh ar ghnéithe éagsúla de shaol na teanga anseo agus go mbeadh sé á fhoilsiú go poiblí le cur lenár réimse tuisceana.

I am pleased my Office is associated with this course as it has as its basis the promotion of the provisions of the Official Languages Act 2003.

The gold medals and €1,000 for the year 2006 were awarded jointly to Pádraig Ó Ceithearnaigh and Bláthnaid Ní Ghréacháin.

An tUasal Ó Ceithearnaigh, who is Acting Director of Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, conducted a study on the functioning of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in the areas of An Spidéal and Na Forbacha in the Galway Gaeltacht.

Iníon Uí Ghréacháin, who is Chief Executive of Gaelscoileanna, conducted research on language planning and the role of Gaelscoileanna in the community.

I am particularly pleased that the winning theses will be published on the University's website so that the general public can access the research.

I believe it is very important that research of the type inspired by this course is conducted on every aspect of language affairs and that it be made publicly available in order to add to our understanding.

## FORBAIRT FOIRNE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

**Ceapadh líon teoranta foirne nuair a bunaíodh an Oifig seo sa bhliain 2004 ach bhí cinneadh Rialtais déanta, áfach, go ndéanfaí athbhreithniú ar an riachtanas foirne ocht mí dhéag níos deireanaí nuair a bheadh tuiscint níos soiléire ar fheidhmiú na hOifige agus ar ualaí oibre.**

Caitheadh cuid mhaith ama agus fuinnimh i mbun an athbhreithnithe sin – an chuid is mó de i míonna tosaigh na bliana 2006.

D'aontaigh mé féin agus an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta gur chóir cuideachta chomhairleach neamhspleách a earcú leis an athbhreithniú foirne sin a dhéanamh.

Chomhaontaíomar freisin na téarmaí tagartha don athbhreithniú a raibh sé mar aidhm aige moltaí a dhéanamh i dtaca le líon na foirne, gráid agus struchtúir a bheadh riachtanach thar amscála cuí le go bhféadfadh an Oifig a cuid feidhmeanna reachtúla a chomhlíonadh ar dhóigh éifeachtach agus ar dhóigh atá éifeachtúil ó thaobh costais de.

Ceapadh cuideachta chomhairleach don tionscnamh tar éis próiseas tairisceana poiblí.

Rinne na comhairleoirí sin dian-iniúchadh ar gach gné d'obair reatha na hOifige agus chuathas i gcomhairle leis an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta agus le hiliomad oifigí gaolmhara eile atá gafa le dualgais ombudsman agus imscrúdaithe, nó a bhíonn ag déileáil le cúrsaí géilliúlachta.

Is mór go deo agam an comhoibriú a tugadh don chuideachta chomhairleach neamhspleách agus í i mbun a cuid oibre agus glacaim an deis seo mo bhuíochas a chur in iúl go poiblí dóibh siúd ar fad a chabhraigh go fíal leis an tionscnamh.

Rinne na comhairleoirí moltaí faoin líon foirne ba lú a theastódh chun na dualgais a leag an tOireachtas ar an Oifig a chomhlíonadh. Moladh freisin na gráid foirne a bhí riachtanach agus an struchtúr ab éifeachtaí ó thaobh costais de.

Seoladh an tuarascáil chríochnúil chuig an Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta an 6 Aibreán 2006. Bhí an idirbheartaíocht faoi chúrsaí foirne ag teacht chun críche ag deireadh na bliana 2006.

**A small number of staff were appointed to establish this Office in 2004, coupled with a Government decision that staffing levels would be reviewed in 18 months when the functioning and workload of the Office became clearer.**

A significant amount of time and energy was spent on this review, primarily in the first number of months in 2006.

The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and I agreed that an independent consultancy company should be employed to conduct this staff review.

We also agreed the terms of reference for the review, the aim of which was to make recommendations with respect to the number, grade and structure of staff which would be necessary over a certain timescale to enable the Office to fulfil its statutory functions in a cost-effective manner.

A consultancy company was appointed following a public tendering process.

The consultants conducted an in-depth audit of every aspect of the Office's work and consulted the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs as well as many other offices which deal with ombudsman or investigative functions or with matters of compliance.

I appreciate greatly the cooperation that was given to the independent consultancy company in conducting this review and take this opportunity to publicly thank all those who generously helped with the project.

The consultants made recommendations concerning the minimum number of staff that would be required to fulfil the statutory obligations placed on the Office by the Oireachtas. They also made recommendations on staff grades and on the most cost effective and efficient structure.

The final report was submitted to the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on the 6th April 2006. Negotiations concerning staffing issues were nearing completion at the end of 2006.

## GRÉASÁN TACAÍOCHTA SUPPORT NETWORK

**Le linn na bliana 2006 bhí m'Óifig gníomhach i mbunú gréasán tacaíochta do chomhlachtaí poiblí a bhfuil scéimeanna teanga daingnithe acu.**

Tá na scéimeanna teanga i gcoilár an Achta agus is sna scéimeanna sin a dhearbhaíonn comhlachtaí poiblí go reachtúil na céimeanna atá le tógáil acu – lasmuigh d'fhorálacha díreacha agus rialacháin an Achta – chun a gcuid seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a fhorbairt ar bhonn céimnithe thar thréimhse trí bliana.

Cuireann m'Óifig seirbhís riarta ar fáil don ghréasán tacaíochta agus chas baill an ghréasáin le chéile faoi dhó le linn na bliana le ceisteanna a bhain le feidhmiú a gcuid scéimeanna teanga agus forálacha eile an Achta a phlé. Ina measc siúd a chabhraigh le hobair an ghréasáin bhí Foras na Gaeilge, an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta agus Gaeleagras, agus táim buíoch díobh as a ndearna siad.

Ba chóir go gcabhródh an gréasán tacaíochta le comhlachtaí poiblí le foghlaim ó chéile agus le comhoibriú a chothú. Sa bhreis air sin, ba cheart go gcabhródh an gréasán le dea-chleachtais i gcúrsaí teanga a leathnú i measc na gcomhlachtaí poiblí.

**During the year 2006 my Office was active in the establishment of a support network for public companies who are implementing confirmed language schemes.**

The system of languages schemes is at the core of the Act and it is in those statutory schemes that public bodies confirm the steps which are to be taken by them – in addition to the direct provisions and regulations of the Act – to develop their supply of customer services through Irish in an organised manner over a three year period.

My Office provides administrative support to the network which met twice during the year to discuss issues in relation to the implementation of their schemes and other provisions of the Act.

Amongst those who assisted with the work of the network were Foras na Gaeilge, The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Gaeleagras and I appreciate that assistance.

The support network should assist public bodies to learn from one another and promote cooperation. The network should also assist in developing best practice in respect of language issues amongst the public bodies.

## FEACHTAS EOLAIS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

**D'eagraigh m'Óifig feachtas fógraíochta teilifíse le linn na bliana 2006 a raibh sé mar aidhmeanna aige:**

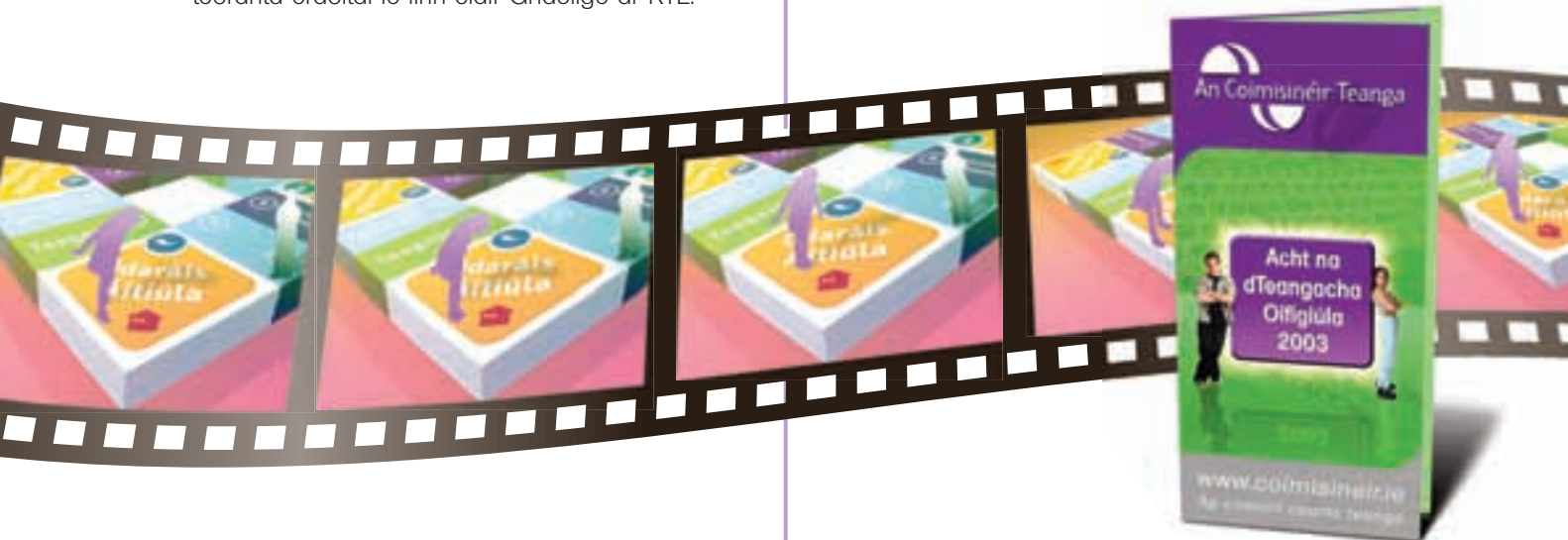
- Aird a dhíriú ar theacht i bhfeidhm fhorálacha iomlána Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 an 14 Iúil 2006,
- Foilsiú na Cairte Cearta Teanga a chur ar a súile don phobal, agus
- an pobal a spreagadh le leas agus buntáiste a bhaint as seirbhísí breise trí Ghaeilge ó chomhlachtaí poiblí de réir mar a bheidh fáil orthu.

Craoladh na fógráin teilifíse go príomha le linn chlársceideal Gaeilge TG4, ach rinneadh líon teoranta craoltaí le linn cláir Ghaeilge ar RTÉ.

**My Office organised a television advertising campaign during 2006 to:**

- Highlight the commencement on the 14th July 2006 of all provisions of the Official Languages Act 2003,
- Mark the launch of the Language Rights Charter, and
- Encourage the public to utilise additional services through Irish as they became available from public bodies.

The television advertisements were broadcast primarily during TG4's Irish language programme schedule and, to a limited extent, during Irish language programmes on RTÉ.



### An Óige

Le linn na bliana 2006 lean m'Óifig, laistigh dár n-acmhainn foirne, le hiarrachtaí tuilleadh eolais faoi chearta teanga a scaipeadh i measc na glúine óige, go háirithe ina gcás siúd a bhí ag freastal ar Choláistí Samhraidh sa Ghaeltacht.

Bhí an bhliain 2006 ar an mbliain is mó go dtí seo ar fhreastail daoine óga ar chúrsaí sna coláistí samhraidh.

Le linn an tsamhraidh 2006, thug baill foirne de chuid m'Óifige cuairt ar 29 coláiste samhraidh ar fud na Gaeltachta le bróisiúr eolais a bhí ullmhaithe i gcomhar le daoine óga faoi Acht na dTeangacha oifigiúla, ceartha teanga agus feidhmeanna na hÓifige a scaipeadh ar an aos óg ansin.

### Youth

During the year 2006 my Office continued our efforts, within our staffing limitations, to distribute information regarding language rights amongst the younger generations, particularly those attending Irish language Summer Schools in Gaeltacht areas.

2006 saw the largest participation to date of young people in such summer courses.

In the summer of 2006 members of my Office visited 29 Irish Colleges throughout the Gaeltacht to distribute information brochures, prepared with the cooperation of young people, on the Official Languages Act, language rights and the functions of the Office.

## SUÍOMH GRÉASÁIN WEBSITE



**Feidhmíonn an suíomh gréasáin [www.coimisineir.ie](http://www.coimisineir.ie) mar ionad ilfhreastail, nó mar ionad lárnach eolais do gach a mbaineann le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 agus le hOifig an Choimisinéara Teanga.**

Leanadh d'fhorbairt an tsuímh le linn na bliana le cinntiú go mbeadh sé iomlán cruinn agus ceart i gcónaí ó thaobh an eolais is deireanaí i dtaca le gach gné den reachtaíocht agus d'obair na hOifige.

Sa tréimhse bliana ó thús Eanáir 2006 go deireadh mhí na Nollag 2006 tháinig glanmhéadú 50% ar líon na mbuillí ar an suíomh ón mbliain roimhe sin.

Tháinig méadú suntasach ar chuaipteanna ar an suíomh ó dháta foilsithe Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2005 na hOifige agus as sin go deireadh na bliana rinne 8,310 duine íoslódáil ar chóipeanna dátheangacha na tuarascála sin.

Bhí an líon seo sa bhreis ar chóipeanna a dáileadh ar CD-ROM ar chomhlachtaí poiblí, ar bhaill den Oireachtas agus ar na meáin chumarsáide.

Tugadh cuid mhaith cuairteanna freisin ar an suíomh gréasáin i mí an Mheithimh 2006 (dáta foilsithe na Cairte Cearta Teanga) agus i mí Iúil 2006 (teacht i bhfeidhm fhorálacha uile na reachtaíochta).

**The website [www.coimisineir.ie](http://www.coimisineir.ie) serves as a “one stop shop” or central information point in relation to everything that pertains to the Official Languages Act 2003 and to the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga.**

Work continued on developing the site during the year to ensure that it always carries accurate and up to date information on every aspect of the legislation and the work of the Office.

During the period 1 January 2006 to the end of December 2006 there was a net increase of 50% over the previous year in the number of “hits” made on the website.

A substantial increase in visits to the site came with the publication of our Annual Report 2005 in March of 2006 and from then to the end of the year 8,310 people downloaded bilingual copies of that report.

This amount was in addition to copies distributed on CD-Rom to public bodies, members of the Oireachtas and the media.

A large number of visits was made to the website in June 2006 (the date of the publication of the Language Rights Charter) and again in July 2006 (the coming into effect of all the provisions of the Act).



## COMHAIRLE DO CHOMHLACHTAÍ POIBLÍ

### ADVICE TO PUBLIC BODIES

Ar cheann d'fheidhmeanna na hOifige seo tá comhairle nó cúnamh eile a sholáthar do chomhlachtaí poiblí a thagann faoi scáth na reachtaíochta maidir lena ndualgais faoin Acht.

Déantar é seo trí léachtaí agus seimineáir éagsúla, trí na meáin chumarsáide, trí fhorbairt an tsuímh ghréasáin dhátheangaigh [www.coimisineir.ie](http://www.coimisineir.ie), agus trí fhoilsiú agus scaipeadh pacáistí eolais.

Dá mhéad comhairle agus eolais shoiléir chruinn a chuirtear ar fáil do chomhlachtaí poiblí faoina ndualgais faoin Acht is ea is fearr is féidir a chinntiú go gcloífead le forálacha an Ahta.

Bíonn fáilte ar leith i gcónaí roimh theagmhálacha ó ionadaithe ó chomhlachtaí poiblí a bhíonn ar thóir eolais, comhairle nó soiléiriú ar a ndualgais faoin Acht.

Le linn na bliana 2006 rinneadh teagmháil thar ceann comhlachtaí poiblí leis an Oifig ar 223 ócáid éagsúil le ceisteanna sonracha nó le léargas cuimsitheach a fháil ar dhualgais teanga faoin Acht. Is ionann sin agus glanmhéadú 45% ar theagmhálacha na bliana roimhe sin.

Bliain	2004	2005	2006
Líon na gcásanna le linn na bliana inar lorg comhlacht poiblí comhairle maidir lena ndualgais teanga faoin Acht	113	153	223

It is one of the functions of this Office to provide advice or other assistance to public bodies, who come within the scope of the legislation with regard to their obligations under the Act.

This is done through the delivery of lectures and seminars, through the media, through the development of a bilingual internet site [www.coimisineir.ie](http://www.coimisineir.ie) and through the publication and distribution of information packs.

The more advice and clear accurate information that is provided to public bodies regarding their obligations under the Act, the easier it will be to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act.

Requests for briefings, advice or clarification from public bodies in relation to their obligations under the Act are always welcome.

During 2006 this Office was contacted by officials of public bodies on 223 separate occasions with specific questions or seeking comprehensive briefings on their obligations under the Act. This marked an increase of 45% on the previous year.

Year	2004	2005	2006
Number of cases during the year where public bodies requested advice about their obligations under the Act.	113	153	223



## COMHLACHTAÍ POIBLÍ NUA NEW PUBLIC BODIES

**Le linn na bliana 2006 rinneadh leasú le hionstraim reachtúil ar liosta na gcomhlachtaí poiblí a thagann faoi scáth Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003.**

Tugadh 34 comhlacht poiblí nua isteach faoi scáth na reachtaíochta agus scriosadh 21 comhlacht poiblí de bheith faoi scáth na reachtaíochta de bharr; den chuid is mó, iad a bheith imithe as feidhm.

Chuir m'Oifig pacáistí eolais ar fáil do na comhlachtaí poiblí nua a tháinig faoi scáth na reachtaíochta agus thairg deiseanna breise dóibh léargas níos fearr a fháil ar a gcuid dualgais teanga nua faoin Acht, dá mba mhian leo é.

Ghlac m'Oifig páirt freisin i seimineár eolais a eagraíodh le linn na bliana faoi scáth na Roinne Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta do na comhlachtaí poiblí nua sin.

**The list of public bodies under the remit of the Official Languages Act 2003 was amended by statutory instrument during 2006.**

34 new public bodies were brought under the aegis of the legislation while 21 others were removed because, for the most part, they were no longer operational.

My Office provided information packs to new public bodies which came under the scope of the legislation and offered them additional briefing opportunities, if they so wished, on their obligations under the Act.

My Office also took part in an introductory seminar for these new public bodies which was organised by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

# CAIDREAMH IDIRNAISIÚNTA INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Le linn na bliana lean m'Óifig d'fhorbairt ár gcaidrimh le heagraíochtaí gaolmhara, go háirithe le heagraíochtaí atá ag feidhmiú i réimsí pleanála teanga go hidirnáisiúnta.

During the year, my Office continued to develop relations with comparable overseas organisations particularly with those involved in the area of language planning.



## CEANADA

Tá ceangal ar leith bunaithe againn le hÓifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla i gCeanada agus le linn na bliana thug an Coimisinéir nuacheaptha ansin, an tUasal Graham Fraser, agus an Leas-Choimisinéir, an Dr. Gérard Finn, cuairt ar m'Óifigse sa Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe leis an gcomhoibriú eadrainn a phlé agus a threisiú.

Tá an tUasal Fraser ar an séú Coimisinéir Teanga i gCeanada ó bunaíodh an Óifig ansin den chéad uair sa bhliain 1970.

Tá comhaontú eadrainn baill foirne a mhalartú le chéile ar feadh tréimhse seachtaine le tuiscint a fháil ar mhodhanna oibre agus le dea-chleachtais oibre a fhorbairt.

Chuipe sin, chaith ball sinsearach foirne d'Óifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla in Ottawa, an tUasal Gilbert Langelier, seachtain ag obair i m'Óifigse i mí na Samhna 2006 agus tá cuireadh tugtha do m'Óifigse ball foirne a chur go hoifig an Choimisinéara i gCeanada an chéad bhliain eile.



Janet Muller, Póbal, Béal Feirste, Graham Fraser, Coimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, Ceanada agus Seán Ó Cuirreáin

Janet Muller, Póbal, Belfast, Graham Fraser, Official Languages Commissioner, Canada and Seán Ó Cuirreáin.

## CANADA

My Office has established a particular link with the Office of the Official Languages Commissioner in Canada and during the year the newly appointed Commissioner, Mr Graham Fraser and the Deputy-Commissioner, Dr. Gérard Finn visited my Office in An Spidéal, Co. Galway to discuss and develop the cooperation between us.

Mr Fraser is the sixth Language Commissioner in Canada since the Office was first established in 1970.

We have agreed an annual exchange of a staff member for a period of one week to increase our understanding of each others work practices as a tool towards establishing norms of best practice.

As part of this exchange, a senior official of the Office of the Official Languages Commissioner in Ottawa, Mr Gilbert Langelier, spent a week working in my Office in An Spidéal in November 2006 and an invitation has been issued to my Office to allow a member of staff to work for a week next year in the Canadian Commissioner's Office.

## WALES

We are also developing our relationship with the Welsh Language Board.

During the year 2006, with both the Chair and Chief Executive of the Welsh Language Board, I gave evidence to the Culture, Welsh Language and Sports Committee of the National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff.

The Assembly is evaluating the administration of the institutions involved with promoting the Welsh language, and discussing the feasibility of



## AN BHREATAIN BHEAG

Tá ár gcaidreamh le Bord na Breatnaise sa Bhreatain Bheag á fhorbairt freisin.

Le linn na bliana 2006 thug mé fianaise – i dteannta an Chathaoirligh agus an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh ar Bhord na Breatnaise – do Choiste Cultúir, Teanga agus Spóirt Chomhthionól na Breataine Bige i Nghaerdydd.

Tá meastóireacht ar bun ag an gComhthionól maidir le leasuithe a dhéanamh ar riaradh chur chun cinn na Breatnaise agus tá plé á dhéanamh



## CAIDREAMH IDIRNAISIÚNTA INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

ar bhunú Oifig Dyfamydd, nó oifig coimisinéir teanga, ansin.

Labhair mé freisin ag seimineár foirme de chuid Bhord na Breataine i Nghaerdydd.



### ALBAIN

Chas mé freisin le linn na bliana 2006 le hAilean Caimbeul, Príomhfheidhmeannach Bhòrd na Gàidhlig in Albain, le linn dó a bheith ar cuairt ar lathar na hÉireann. Bunaíodh Bòrd na Gàidhlig mar bhord reachtúil i mí Feabhra 2006 de thoradh Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005. Tá sé i measc phríomhaidhmeanna Bhòrd na Gàidhlig líon lucht labhartha agus úsáide na Gàidhlig in Albain a mhéadú.



### AN AFRAIC THEAS

Chas mé leis an Uasal Silboniso S. Edward Sambo, Comhairleoir Sinsearach Dlí Bhord Teangacha na hAfraice Theas, le linn a chuairte ar Ghaillimh. Feidhmíonn an bord sin faoi chóras ina bhfuil 11 teanga oifigiúil.

### EILE

Chas mé le linn 2006 le cuid mhór saineolaithe teanga as gach ceam den domhan nuair a rinne mé an oscailt oifigiúil ar chomhdháil a d'eagraigh an tAcadamh Idimáisiúnta ar Dhlí Teangacha in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh. Seo í an chéad uair a tionóladh an mhórchomhdháil idimáisiúnta seo ar chúrsaí teanga in Éirinn. Thug suas le 100 saineolaí as 25 tír (san áireamh: Meiriceá, an tSín, an India, an Rúis, an Tuirc, an Fhionlainn, Ceanada, Éire agus araile) léachtaí i mBéarla, i nGaeilge nó i bhFraincis ar an téama "Na dúshláin a bhaineann le hachtú agus le cur i bhfeidhm dlí agus ceartha teanga".



### AN BHREATAIN AGUS ÉIRE

Le linn na bliana tugadh comhbhallraíocht chorparáideach do m'Oifig i gCumann Ombudsman na Breataine agus na hÉireann – cumann a fheidhmíonn le caidreamh agus comhthuiscint a fheabhsú ina measc siúd atá gafa le gnóthaí ombudsman sna críocha seo.



establishing a Dyfamydd – an adjudicator or language commissioner.

I also addressed a staff seminar of the Welsh Language Board in Cardiff.



### SCOTLAND

During the year 2006 I also met with Ailean Caimbeul, Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Chief Executive in Scotland, during his visit to the West of Ireland. Bòrd na Gàidhlig was established as a statutory body in February 2006 as a result of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. Bòrd na Gàidhlig's main function is to increase the number of people who speak and use Gàidhlig in Scotland.



### SOUTH AFRICA

I met with Mr. Silboniso S. Edward Sambo, Senior Legal Advisor to the Pan South African Language Board, during his visit to Galway. The Board functions within a system which recognises 11 official languages.

### OTHER

During 2006 I met with many language experts from around the world when I officially opened the congress of the International Academy of Linguistic Law in the National University of Ireland, Galway. This was the first time this international conference was convened in Ireland. Up to 100 experts from 25 countries (including the USA, China, India, Russia, Turkey, Finland, Canada, and Ireland) delivered lectures in English, Irish or French on the theme "The challenges of enacting and implementing language legislation."



### BRITAIN AND IRELAND

During the year my Office became an associate corporate member of the British and Irish Ombudsman Association – an association focused on improving relationships and understanding amongst those engaged with ombudsman schemes.



## PAINÉAL AISTRITHEOIRÍ CREIDIÚNAITHE ACCREDITED TRANSLATORS PANEL



**I mí Iúil 2006 d'fhógair Foras na Gaeilge – an eagraíocht atá freagrach as an nGaeilge a chur chun cinn ar fud oileán na hÉireann – ballraíocht an chéad phainéil riamh de 54 aistritheoir creidiúnaithe Gaeilge.**

Bhí tábhacht ar leith le bunú an phainéil sin le cinntiú go mbeadh fáil éasca ag comhlachtaí poiblí ar liosta aistritheoirí a bhféadfadh lánmhuinín a bheith acu as a gcumas agus as a gcaighdeán oibre.

Mhínigh Foras na Gaeilge gur oibrigh na príomhchomhlachtaí poiblí a bhfuil cúraimí aistriúcháin Ghaeilge orthu – iad siúd atá freagrach as foilsiú, as cruthú na téarmaíochta nua agus as aistriú téacsanna reachtúla agus parlaiminteacha – le chéile ar dhearadh agus ar chur i bhfeidhm an chórais nua faoi stiúir an Fhorais. Bhí glacadh le hardchaighdeán cothrom le haghaidh an aistriúcháin mar aon le próiseas trédhearcach maidir le scrúduithe poiblí a leagan amach agus a cheartú mar chuid den chur chuige aontaithe, a dúirt an Foras.

Tá sé beartaithe obair na n-aistritheoirí ar an bpainéal poiblí a mheas ar bhonn leanúnach, agus beidh orthu tabhairt faoin scrúdú creidiúnaithe arís uair in aghaidh gach cúig bliana. Beidh baill nua á gcur leis an bpainéal ar bhonn rialta de réir a chéile.

Céim shuntasach chun cinn is ea bunú an phainéil mar gur mhinic go dtí sin ábhar gearáin ag comhlachtaí poiblí nach bhféadfaidís a bheith lánchinnte faoi chaighdeán aistriúcháin Ghaeilge a bheadh ar fáil dóibh in éagmais córas creidiúnaithe dá leithéid. Tá ár mbuíochas tuillte ag Foras na Gaeilge as ucht a gcuid oibre sa réimse seo.

**In July 2006 Foras na Gaeilge – the all-island Irish language promotional body – announced the membership of the first ever panel of 54 accredited Irish language translators.**

The establishment of this panel was of particular importance in ensuring that public bodies would have easy access to a list of translators in whom they could have full confidence in their ability and standard of work.

Foras na Gaeilge explained that the new system was devised and implemented through a collaboration of all the main public organisations involved with Irish language translation – those responsible for publishing, creating new terminology and translating statutory and parliamentary texts – co-ordinated by Foras na Gaeilge. The agreed approach involved the adoption of a high and fair standard for translation and a transparent process for setting and correcting public examinations according to an Foras.

It is intended to assess the work of the members of this public panel on an on-going basis and they will be obliged to re-sit the accreditation examination once every five years. New members will be added to the panel on a regular basis over time.

The creation of the panel is a substantial step forward, since prior to this public bodies had often complained that they could not be fully confident of the quality of Irish language translations available to them in the absence of an accreditation service of this nature. Foras na Gaeilge deserve our thanks for their work in this area.

# SCÉIMEANNA TEANGA FAOIN ACHT

## LANGUAGE SCHEMES UNDER THE ACT



I gcoirílár Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 tá córas le scéimeanna teanga a ullmhú, a dhaingniú agus a fheidhmiú. Córas é seo a thugann deis do chomhlachtaí poiblí na tosaíochtaí a bheadh acu maidir le feabhas a chur ar a gcuid seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a aithint agus a eagrú.

Le linn na bliana 2006 dhaingnigh an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta 21 scéim teanga bhreise faoin Acht a chlúdaigh móriomlán de 36 comhlacht poiblí.

D'fhág sin go raibh 43 scéim teanga i bhfeidhm a chlúdaigh móriomlán de 71 comhlacht poiblí ó achtaíodh an reachtaíocht.

Sa bhreis air sin, bhí 49 dréachtscéim eile le bheith curtha ar fáil don Aire le linn na bliana 2006 ó chomhlachtaí poiblí éagsúla lena gcomhaontú.

Le linn na bliana freisin threoraigh an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta do 19 gcomhlacht poiblí dréachtscéimeanna teanga a ullmhú le cur faoina bhráid le linn 2007.

Pleananna reachtúla teanga atá sna scéimeanna faoin Acht a mhéadóidh ar líon agus ar chaighdeán na seirbhísí a chuirfear ar fáil trí Ghaeilge, ar bhealach eagraithe tomhaiste thar thréimhse ama.

Le linn na bliana 2006 chuaigh m'Oifig i mbun próiseas léimheasa nó iniúchta ar gach scéim teanga a bhí bliain nó níos mó i mbun feidhmiú agus fuairamar comhoibriú chuige sin ó na comhlachtaí poiblí a bhí i gceist.

**Central to the Official Languages Act 2003 is the system to prepare, confirm and implement language schemes. This system gives public bodies the opportunity to identify and organise their priorities for the improvement of services through Irish.**

During the year 2006 the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs confirmed 21 additional schemes under the Act covering a total of 36 public bodies.

Since the legislation was enacted 43 language schemes have commenced covering a total of 71 public bodies.

In addition to this, 49 draft schemes were due for submission to the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs by different public bodies for approval during the year 2006.

During the year the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs also directed 19 further public bodies to prepare draft schemes for submission during 2007.

Schemes under the Act are statutory language plans aimed at increasing the number and standard of services available through Irish in an organised and measured way over a period of time.

During the year my Office began a review process of every scheme that was a year or more in force and received cooperation from the public bodies in question.



## SCÉIMEANNA TEANGA FAOIN ACHT LANGUAGE SCHEMES UNDER THE ACT

Bhí sé mar aidhm ag an tionscnamh seo aon fhadhbanna a bhí ag baint le cur i bhfeidhm fhorálacha na scéimeanna sin a aithint agus a chur ar a súile do lucht ceannais na gcomhlachtaí poiblí le go bhféadfaidís na céimeanna cuí a ghlacadh le cinntiú go mbeidís ag cloí lena ndualgais reachtúla.

Is gné rithábachtach d'obair na hOifige é seo agus beidh sé le forbairt de réir mar a bheidh acmhainní foime ann chuige sin.

I bhfianaise thaithí na bliana 2006 is féidir a rá gur léir don Oifig seo gur gá go mbeadh aird ar leith i gcomhlachtaí poiblí ar bheith níos gníomhaí i mbun cumarsáide lena bhfoireann féin agus leis an bpobal faoi fhorálacha na scéimeanna atá daingnithe acu.

Tá an easpa cumarsáide sin a d'fhágfadh cuid d'foireann na gcomhlachtaí poiblí gan a bheith ar an eolas faoi na dualgais shainiúla teanga atá comhaontaithe ina gcuid scéimeanna, nó a d'fhágfadh nach mbeadh an pobal ar an eolas faoi na seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge atá dlite dóibh, ar na heasnamh is suntasaí atá tugtha faoi deara i dtréimhse thosaigh na scéimeanna.

### **Daingnithe faoi dheireadh 2006**

The aim of this project was to identify any problems associated with the implementation of the provisions of the scheme and to make the management of public bodies aware of these difficulties so that they could take the necessary steps to ensure compliance with their statutory obligations.

This is a very important aspect of the work of this Office which will be further developed when the necessary staff resources are available.

In light of our experience in 2006 it is clear to this Office that public bodies may need to pay more attention to communicating with their own staff and with the public regarding the provisions of the schemes that they have agreed.

This lack of communication is the most significant weakness noted at this introductory stage. It could leave some members of staff of public bodies unaware of their specific language obligations as agreed in their schemes and the public unaware of the services through Irish to which they are entitled.

### **Confirmed before the end of 2006**

Ainm an Chomhlachta	Name of Public Body	Dáta scéim i bhfeidhm	Commencement Date of the scheme
An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	22/09/2004	
Oifig an Uachtaráin	Office of the President	28/04/2005	
Oifig an Choimisiúin um Cheapacháin Seirbhíse Poiblí	Office of the Commission for Public Service Appointments	30/05/2005	
Oifig an Ombudsman agus Oifig an Choimisinéara Faisnéise	Office of the Ombudsman and Office of the Information Commissioner	01/07/2005	
An Roinn Ealaíon, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta	The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism	01/07/2005	
An Chomhairle Ealaíon	The Arts Council	01/07/2005	
Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae Dhún na nGall	County Donegal Vocational Education Committee	01/07/2005	
Oifig an Stiúrthóra Ionchúiseamh Poiblí	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	01/07/2005	
Údaráis Áitiúla Chiarraí	Kerry Local Authorities	26/07/2005	
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna	The Courts Service	31/07/2005	
Údaráis Áitiúla Chontae Phort Láirge	Waterford County Local Authorities	01/08/2005	



# SCÉIMEANNA TEANGA FAOIN ACHT

## LANGUAGE SCHEMES UNDER THE ACT

Ainm an Chomhlachta	Name of Public Body	Dáta scéim i bhfeidhm	Commencement Date of the scheme
An Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil	The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government		15/08/2005
Údarás Áitiúla Chontae na Gaillimhe	County Galway Local Authorities		23/08/2005
Roinn an Taoisigh	Department of the Taoiseach		01/09/2005
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Limistéar an Iarthair	Health Service Executive, Western Area		01/09/2005
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad	National University of Ireland, Maynooth		19/09/2005
Institiúid Teicneolaíochta na Gaillimhe-Maigh Eo	Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology		28/09/2005
Oifig na gCoimisinéirí Ioncaim	Office of the Revenue Commissioners		01/10/2005
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh	National University of Ireland, Galway		01/10/2005
Údarás Áitiúla Dhún na nGall	Donegal Local Authorities		01/10/2005
An tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí	The Public Appointments Service		03/10/2005
An Coimisiún Reifrinn	The Referendum Commission	ón dáta a bhunófar an chéad Chomisiún eile / from the date on which the next Commission is established	
An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta	The Department of Education and Science		01/12/2005
An Roinn Airgeadais	The Department of Finance		01/02/2006
Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath	Dublin City University		03/04/2006
Seirbhís Oideachais Co. Chiarraí	Kerry Education Service		15/05/2006
Ollscoil Luimnigh	University of Limerick		01/06/2006
An Roinn Talmhaíochta agus Bia	The Department of Agriculture and Food		01/06/2006
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí	The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform		30/06/2006
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath	Dublin City Council		13/07/2006
Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae na Gaillimhe	County Galway Vocational Education Committee		01/08/2006
Údarás Áitiúla na Mí	Meath Local Authorities		01/09/2006
Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe	Galway City Council		01/09/2006
Óglaigh na hÉireann	The Defence Forces		01/09/2006
An Roinn Cumarsáide, Mara agus Acmhainní Nádurtha	The Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources		02/09/2006
Údarás Áitiúla Fhine Gall	Fingal Local Authorities		01/10/2006
An Banc Ceannais & Údarás Seirbhísí Airgeadais na hÉireann	Central Bank and Financial Services Authority of Ireland		01/12/2006
Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh	University College Cork		01/12/2006
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha	The Department of Foreign Affairs		01/12/2006
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas	South Dublin County Council		20/12/2006
Údarás Áitiúla Mhaigh Eo	Mayo County Local Authorities		22/12/2006
Comhairle Contae Liatroma	Leitrim County Council		01/01/2007
An Bord Seirbhísí Ríomhaire Rialtais Áitiúil	Local Government Computer Services Board		02/01/2007

# SCÉIMEANNA TEANGA FAOIN ACHT

## LANGUAGE SCHEMES UNDER THE ACT

### Dréachtscéimeanna le hullmhú roimh dheireadh 2006

Bhí dréachtscéimeanna le cur ar fáil lena ndaingniú ag an Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta ag 49 comhlacht poiblí eile le linn nó faoi dheireadh na bliana 2006, mar seo a leanas:

- Coláiste Oideachais Eaglais na hÉireann
- An Roinn Sláinte agus Leanaí
- Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
- Suirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann
- Údarás Áitiúla Shligigh
- Oifig an Ard-Aighne
- Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann
- Leabharlann Chester Beatty
- An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
- Údarás Áitiúla na hIarmhí
- Údarás Áitiúla Chorcaí
- Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
- Údarás Áitiúla Ros Comáin
- Comhairle Cathrach Luimnigh
- Comhairle Chontae Luimnigh
- Coimisinéirí na nOibreacha Poiblí
- An Coimisinéir Cosanta Sonraí
- An tÚdarás Comhionannais
- An Binse Comhionannais
- An Oifig um Chlárú Cuideachtaí
- Oifig Chlárúitheoir na gCara-Chumann
- Oifig an Stiúrthóra um Fhorfheidhmiú Corparáideach
- An Coimisiún um Scrúduithe Stáit
- Oifig an Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste
- An Bord Pleanála
- An Bord um Chúnamh Dlíthiúil
- An Crannchur Náisiúnta
- Coiste Gairmoideachais Chathair Chorcaí
- Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae Chorcaí
- Coiste Gairmoideachais Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath
- IT Thamhlachta
- IT Thrá Lí
- An Ceoláras Náisiúnta

### Draft schemes to be prepared by the end of 2006

49 other public bodies were required to submit draft schemes for confirmation by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs during or by the end of 2006, as follows:

- Church of Ireland College of Education
- The Department of Health and Children
- National Library of Ireland
- Ordnance Survey Ireland
- Sligo Local Authorities
- Chief State Solicitor's Office
- National Museum of Ireland
- Chester Beatty Library
- The Heritage Council
- Westmeath Local Authorities
- Cork Local Authorities
- Cork City Council
- Roscommon Local Authorities
- Limerick City Council
- Limerick County Council
- The Commissioners of Public Works
- Office of the Data Protection Commissioner
- Equality Authority
- The Equality Tribunal
- The Companies Registration Office
- Office of the Registrar of Friendly Societies
- Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement
- State Examinations Commission
- Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General
- An Bord Pleanála
- Legal Aid Board
- The National Lottery
- Cork City Vocational Education Committee
- Cork County Vocational Education Committee
- Dublin City Vocational Education Committee
- Institute of Technology Tallaght
- Institute of Technology Tralee
- National Concert Hall

# SCÉIMEANNA TEANGA FAOIN ACHT

## LANGUAGE SCHEMES UNDER THE ACT

- Dánlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
- Amharclann na Mainistreach (An Chuideachta Amharclann Náisiúnta Teoranta)
- An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas
- An Foras Riaracháin
- Coimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair
- An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
- Foras Áiseanna Saothair (FÁS)
- An Roinn Iompair
- An Roinn Cosanta
- Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire / Ráth an Dúin
- Údarás Áitiúla an Chláir
- Údarás Áitiúla Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh
- Údarás Áitiúla Thiobraid Árann Theas
- An Bord Seirbhísí Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúla
- Coiste Gairmoideachais Chathair na Gaillimhe
- Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae an Chláir

### Dréachtscéimeanna eile

Le linn na bliana 2006 threoraigh an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta do na comhlachtaí poiblí seo a leanas dréachtscéimeanna a ullmhú agus a chur ar fáil dó in 2007:

- Comhairle
- Bord Scannán na hÉireann
- Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath
- Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
- Oifig an Stiúrthóra Gnóthaí Tomhaltóirí
- Foras na Mara
- IT Leitir Ceanainn
- Teagasc
- Údarás Áitiúla Laoise
- Údarás Áitiúla Uíbh Fhailí
- Údarás Áitiúla Mhuineacháin
- Údarás Áitiúla Chill Mhantáin
- Údarás Áitiúla Loch Garman

- National Gallery of Ireland
- Abbey Theatre  
(National Theatre Society Limited)
- Higher Education Authority
- Institute of Public Administration
- Western Development Commission
- Central Statistics Office
- Foras Áiseanna Saothair (FÁS)
- Department of Transport
- Department of Defence
- Dún-Laoghaire / Rathdown County Council
- Clare Local Authorities
- Tipperary North Local Authorities
- Tipperary South Local Authorities
- Local Government Management Services Board
- Galway City Vocational Education Committee
- County Clare Vocational Education Committee

### Other Draft schemes

During 2006 the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs instructed the following public companies to prepare draft schemes to present to him in 2007:

- Comhairle
- Irish Film Board
- Dublin Vocational Education Committee
- The Health Service Executive
- Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs
- Foras na Mara
- Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- Teagasc
- Laois Local Authorities
- Offaly Local Authorities
- Monaghan Local Authorities
- Wicklow Local Authorities
- Wexford Local Authorities

# SCÉIMEANNA TEANGA FAOIN ACHT

## LANGUAGE SCHEMES UNDER THE ACT

- Údaráis Áitiúla Chill Dara
- Údaráis Áitiúla Longfoirt
- Comhairle Cathrach Phort Láirge
- Údaráis Áitiúla Chill Chainnigh
- Údaráis Áitiúla Lú
- Údaráis Áitiúla an Chabháin

### Dréachtscéimeanna fós le daingniú ag an Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

- An Roinn Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh
- Bord Sláinte an Iar-Thuaiscirt
- Clárann na Talún agus Clárann na nGníomhas

### Staitisticí – Scéimeanna

Bliain	Scéimeanna	Comhlachtaí Poiblí san Áireamh
2004	1	1
2005	21	34
2006	21	36

### Staitisticí – Dréachtscéimeanna

Bliain	Scéimeanna	Comhlachtaí Poiblí san Áireamh
2005	16	25
2006	71	129

- Kildare Local Authorities
- Longford Local Authorities
- Waterford City Council
- Kilkenny Local Authorities
- Louth Local Authorities
- Cavan Local Authorities

### Draft schemes to be confirmed by the Minister of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

- Department of Social and Family Affairs
- The North Western Health Board
- The Land Registry and Registry of Deeds

### Statistics – Schemes:

Year	Schemes	Public Bodies Included
2004	1	1
2005	21	34
2006	21	36

### Statistics – Draft schemes

Year	Draft Schemes	Public Bodies Included
2005	16	25
2006	71	129

# GEARÁIN: DEACRACHTAÍ AGUS FADHBANNA – STATISTICÍ

## COMPLAINTS: DIFFICULTIES AND PROBLEMS – STATISTICS

### 611 Gearán Nua in 2006

Le linn na bliana 2006, cuireadh 611 cás nua i láthair m'Oifige inar chreid baill den phobal go raibh cúis gearáin acu de bharr deacrachta nó faidhbe le seirbhís trí Ghaeilge ón státchóras.

Cuireadh comhairle ar leith ar fáil don ghearánaí maidir le 285 cás acu sin agus maidir le 354 cás eile (lena n-áirítear 28 cás ón mbliain 2005) tógadh céimeanna le hiarrachtaí a dhéanamh cúis an ghearáin a réiteach – go minic de réir “spiorad na reachtaíochta” seachas de bharr dualgas de réir fhorálacha an Ahta. Tugadh 294 de na cásanna sin chun críche le linn na bliana, agus tugadh 60 acu chun cinn go dtí an bhliain 2006.

Ar na gearáin ba choitianta bhí: foirmeacha i mBéarla amháin (19%), fadhb le hainm agus/nó seoladh i nGaeilge (16%), easpa Gaeilge ar chomharthaí bóthair (16%), freagraí i mBéarla ar chumarsáid i nGaeilge (14%), easpa Gaeilge i gcomharthaíocht/bhfógraíocht (6%), bileoga nó ciorcláin i mBéarla amháin (5%), foilseacháin i mBéarla amháin (3%), easpa Gaeilge ar shuíomh gréasáin (3%) agus cártaí aitheantais oifigiúla i mBéarla amháin (1%).

As Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath a tháinig os cionn an tríú cuid de na gearáin (38%) agus tháinig 46% eile de na gearáin as deich gcontae le chéile – Gaillimh (17%), Dún na nGall (7%), Port Láirge (4%), Cill Mhantáin (4%), Ciarraí (4%), Corcaigh (3%), Liatroim (3%), an Mhí (2%), an Cabhán (1%), an Clár (1%).

Ón nGaeltacht a tháinig nach mór an tríú cuid de na gearáin (30%) agus as ceantair lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht an chuid eile (70%).

Is ceart a rá nár bhain ach cuid de na gearáin chun na hOifige le linn na bliana 2006 le sárú ar dhualgaí reachtúla faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus gur bhain tuilleadh le deacrachtaí agus fadhbanna níos ginearálta gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge le heagraíochtaí stáit tráth a raibh tús feidhme á thabhairt don reachtaíocht nua seo. Bhí sé mar straitéis eatramhach ag an Oifig, go dtí go dtiocfadh éifeacht iomlán na reachtaíochta i bhfeidhm, déileáil leis na fadhbanna agus gearáin seo de réir “spiorad” na reachtaíochta le hoiread cabhrach agus ab fhéidir a sholáthar don chuid sin den phobal a mheas go raibh cúis gearáin acu.

Ní bheidh aon bhrí ná bunús leanúint leis an modh oibre eatramhach sin nuair a bheidh éifeacht iomlán leis an reachtaíocht – na rialacháin déanta faoin Acht i dtaca le húsáid na Gaeilge i bhfógraíocht, comharthaíocht, stáiseanáireacht agus fógaírtí béil agus céatadán suntasach scéimeanna teanga daingnithe faoin Acht.

### 611 New Complaints in 2006

During the year 2006, my Office dealt with 611 new cases in which members of the public considered they had reason to complain because of difficulties or problems associated with getting service through Irish from public bodies.

In 285 of those cases, specific advice was given to the complainant. In a further 354 cases (including 28 cases from 2005) steps were taken to try and resolve the cause of the complaint – often based on the “spirit of the legislation” rather than on the basis of actual obligations arising from the provisions of the Act. Some 294 of these cases were finalised during the year, leaving 60 others to be brought forward to 2006.

Amongst the most common complaints were: forms in English only (19%), difficulty with the use of name and/or address in Irish (16%), lack of Irish on road signs (16%), replies in English to correspondence in Irish (14%), lack of Irish on signage or advertisements (6%), leaflets or circulars in English only (5%), publications in English only (3%), absence of Irish on websites (3%) and official identity cards in English only (1%).

More than a third of the complaints came from Co. Dublin (38%) and another 46% came from the following ten counties – Galway (17%), Donegal (7%), Waterford (4%), Wicklow (4%), Kerry (4%), Cork (3%), Leitrim (3%), Meath (2%), Cavan (1%) and Clare (1%).

Almost a third of the complaints came from the Gaeltacht (30%) with the remainder from areas outside the Gaeltacht (70%).

It should be mentioned that only some of the complaints received during the year referred to breaches of legal obligations under The Official Languages Act 2003, and that some related to difficulties and general problems of attempting to transact business through Irish with State institutions at the time that this new legislation was being introduced. It was an interim strategy of this Office until the legislation came into full effect to deal with these problems and complaints under the ‘spirit’ of the legislation in order to provide as much assistance as possible to people who felt they had grounds for complaint.

There would be little sense in continuing with this strategy in future when the Act is fully in force – when the regulations are made under the Act in respect of the use of Irish in advertising, signage, stationery and oral announcements and when a sizeable percentage of language schemes are confirmed under the Act.

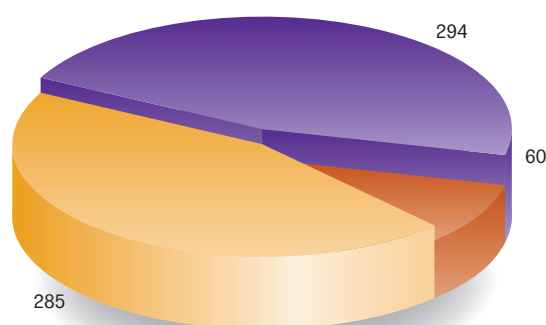


# GEARÁIN: DEACRACHTAÍ AGUS FADHBANNA – STATISTICÍ COMPLAINTS: DIFFICULTIES AND PROBLEMS – STATISTICS

## Gearáin le linn 2006 / Complaints in 2006

Gearáin nua 2006 / New complaints 2006	611
Gearáin tugtha ar aghaidh ó 2005/ Complaints brought forward from 2005	28
<b>Móiriomlán gearán – fadhbanna agus deacrachtaí / Total complaints – problems and difficulties</b>	<b>639</b>

	2004	2005	2006
Comhairle tugtha maidir le gearáin / Advice provided in relation to complaints	93	176	285
Gearáin fiosraithe agus críochnaithe / Complaints examined and resolved	176	246	294
Gearáin tugtha ar aghaidh / Complaints brought forward	35	28	60
<b>IOMLÁN / TOTAL</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>639</b>

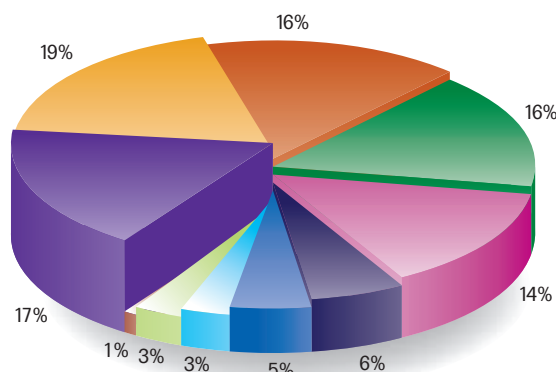


Tá anailís ar na cásanna éagsúla sna staitisticí agus sna léaráidí seo a leanas:

An analysis of the various cases is provided in the statistics and illustrations which follow:

## Céatadán Gearán de réir Cineáil / Percentage of Complaints by Type

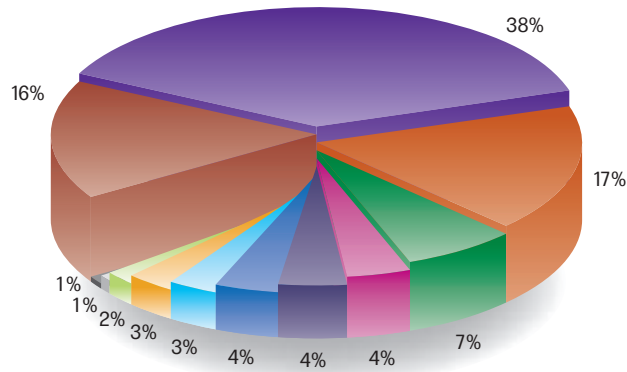
	2004	2005	2006
Foirmeacha i mBéarla amháin / Forms in English only	13%	21%	19%
Fadhb le hainm agus/nó seoladh i nGaeilge / Problem with use of name and/or address in Irish	7%	14%	16%
Easpa Gaeilge ar chomharthaí bóthair / Lack of Irish on road signs	6%	13%	16%
Freagraí i mBéarla ar chumarsáid i nGaeilge / Replies in English to correspondence in Irish	16%	10%	14%
Easpa Gaeilge i gcomharthaíocht/i bhfógraíocht / Lack of Irish on signage/advertisements	9%	6%	6%
Bileoga nó ciorcláin i mBéarla amháin / Leaflets or circulars in English only	9%	4%	5%
Foilseacháin i mBéarla amháin / Publications in English only	8%	4%	3%
Easpa Gaeilge ar shuíomh gréasáin / Lack of Irish on website	–	4%	3%
Cártaí aitheantais oifigiúla i mBéarla amháin / Official identity cards in English only	2%	3%	1%
Eile (cúiseanna aonair) / Other (individual issues)	30%	21%	17%
<b>IOMLÁN / TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



## GEARÁIN: DEACRACHTAÍ AGUS FADHBANNA – STATISTICÍ COMPLAINTS: DIFFICULTIES AND PROBLEMS – STATISTICS

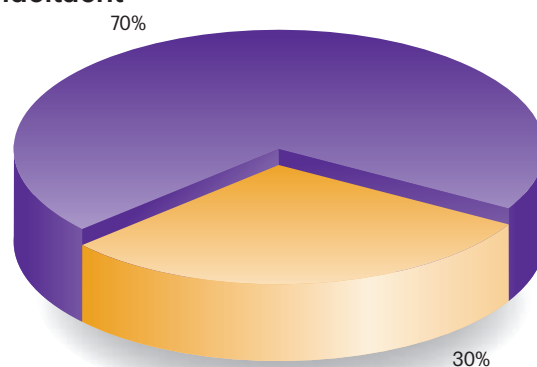
### Gearáin de réir Contae Complaints by County

	2004	2005	2006
Baile Átha Cliath / Dublin	35%	36%	38%
Gaillimh / Galway	15%	17%	17%
Dún na nGall / Donegal	5%	4%	7%
Port Láirge / Waterford	3%	2%	4%
Cill Mhantáin / Wicklow	–	–	4%
Ciarraí / Kerry	7%	9%	4%
Corcaigh / Cork	7%	6%	3%
Liatroim / Leitrim	–	–	3%
An Mhí / Meath	–	3%	2%
An Cabhán / Cavan	–	3%	1%
An Clár / Clare	4%	2%	1%
Elle / Others	24%	18%	16%
<b>IOMLÁN / TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



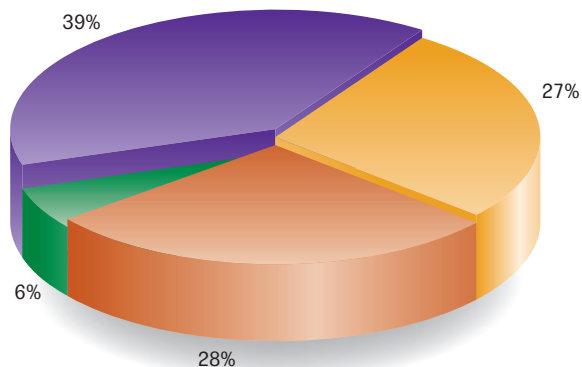
### Gearáin: An Ghaeltacht agus Lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht Complaints: Gaeltacht and Non-Gaeltacht

	2004	2005	2006
An Ghaeltacht	26%	34%	30%
Lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht / Non-Gaeltacht	74%	66%	70%
<b>IOMLÁN / TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



### Gearáin de réir Cineál Comhlacht Poiblí Complaints by Type of Public Body

	2004	2005	2006
Ranna Rialtais / Government Departments	26%	30%	27%
Údaráis Áitiúla / Local Authorities	23%	20%	28%
Údaráis Sláinte / Health Authorities	7.5%	7%	6%
Eagraíochtaí eile Stáit / Other State Organisations	43.5%	43%	39%
<b>IOMLÁN / TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



# ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

## SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

### Clár na dtoghthóirí

Cuireadh dlús le linn na bliana 2006 le clár nua toghthóirí a chur le chéile faoi scáth na n-údarás áitiúil agus na Roinne Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil. Rinneadh roinnt gearán le m'Oifig i leith ceisteanna a bhain le polasaithe, nósanna agus cleachtais i dtaobh úsáid na Gaeilge sa tionscnamh seo.

Bhain formhór na ngearán le húdarais áitiúla a dúirt le daoine i gceantair lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht gur ghá dóibh leaganacha Béarla dá seoltaí baile a sholáthar dá mba mhian leo a bheith cláraithe ar liosta na dtoghthóirí.

Ina measc seo bhí daoine a raibh sé de chleachtas seanbhunaithe acu gan ach an leagan Gaeilge dá n-ainm agus dá seoladh a úsáid i gcónaí.

Dá nglacfaí leis an dearcadh seo chiallódh sé go rabhthas ag rá leis an gcuid sin den phobal gur ghá dóibh seoladh i mBéarla a bheith acu le clárú le vóta a chaitheamh sa chéad olltoghchán eile.

Tuigeadh dom go raibh rialacháin déanta ag an Aire Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil i dtaca le clárú na dtoghthóirí agus nach raibh aon rialachán acu siúd ag cosc úsáid seoltaí i nGaeilge lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht. Fós féin, bhí údarais áitiúla áirithe den bharúil go raibh cead agus beannacht na Roinne sin acu lena leithéid a dhiúltú do bhaill den phobal.

Ó tharla an fhadhb a bheith tagtha chun cinn le roinnt údarais áitiúla éagsúla bheartaigh mé an t-ábhar a chur i láthair an Aire Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil i scríbhinn an 27 Samhain 2006.

Mheabhraigh mé don Aire go mbeadh an chosúlacht air go mbeadh an cleachtas ag teacht salach go hiomlán ar pholasaí seanbhunaithe an stáit i leith na teanga.

Thagair mé freisin d'áit na teanga sa Bhunreacht mar phríomhtheanga oifigiúil, an tacaíocht a bhí geallta don teanga sa chóras poiblí in Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, an stádas oifigiúil oibre don teanga san Aontas Eorpach agus ráiteas físe an Rialtais i leith na Gaeilge (2006).

### Register of electors

Work on a new register of electors under the aegis of the local authorities and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government was in progress during 2006. A number of complaints were made to my Office with regards to issues of policy, and custom or practice in relation to the use of Irish in this project.

Most of the complaints related to local authorities who told people, in areas outside the Gaeltacht, that they should provide their home address in English if they wished to be included on the register of electors. Included here were people who had a long established practice of using the Irish version of their names and addresses at all times.

If this ruling were accepted it would mean that this section of the public would be obliged to provide an address in English in order to ensure that they were registered to vote in the next election.

I understood that the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government had made regulations in relation to the register of electors and that none of those regulations had restricted the use of addresses in Irish outside the Gaeltacht. In spite of this, certain local authorities were of the opinion that they had the endorsement of the Department in their refusal to allow members of the public to provide their addresses in Irish.

Since the problem had arisen with a number of different local authorities I decided to raise the matter, in writing, with the Minister Environment, Heritage and Local Government on 27 November 2006.

I suggested to the Minister that it would appear that the practice conflicted totally with the established state policy in relation to the language.

I referred also to the constitutional position of the language as the first national language, the support promised to the language in the public sector under the Official Languages Act 2003, the status of the language as an official working language of the European Union and the vision statement of the Government in relation to Irish (2006).

## ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

Luagh mé go raibh an ceart ainm agus seoladh a úsáid i nGaeilge anseo chomh bunúsach agus seanbhunaithe sin gur dócha nár cuireadh foráil ar leith sa reachtaíocht ina thaobh mar nár smaoiníodh riamh go ndiúltódh aon chuid den státchóras dá leithéid d'iarratas simplí.

Dúirt mé leis an Aire freisin murarbh fhéidir seoladh i nGaeilge a úsáid le clárú ar liosta toghthóirí, gurbh fhánach a bheith ag déanamh an cháis gur fiú leaganacha Gaeilge de sheoltaí a bheith ann nó go mbeadh comharthaíocht dhátheangach, ainmplátaí agus síneacha eile in úsáid sa réimse seo ar fud na tíre.

Sa bhreis air sin mheas mé, ó tharla gur dócha go n-úsáidfí Clár na dToghthóirí mar fhoinsé do ghnóthaí an daonáirimh agus liostaí eile, go ndéanfaidh an cleachtas Béarla amháin a bheith ar sheoltaí lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht cuma agus cruth an Bhéarla a thabhairt i bhfeidhm agus a leathnú go hiomlán i réimse ina raibh eilimint áirithe den dátheangachas roimhe seo.

Mar fhreagra, bhí an méid seo le rá ag an Aire Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil an 30 Samhain 2006:

*"Ar dtús caithfidh mé a shoiléiriú duit go bhfuil lánchead ag toghthóirí a n-ainmneacha agus seoltaí a chur isteach chuig an údarás áitiúil i nGaeilge. Déanann mo Roinn cinnte de go gcuireann na húdaráis áitiúla foirmeacha ar fáil go dátheangach, nó go bhfuil foirmeacha sa dá theanga oifigiúla.*

*Níor chóir d'aon údarás áitiúil diúltú mar sin d'ainm agus seoladh i nGaeilge.*

*Ardaítear ceist eile agus an clár féin á chur le chéile, áfach. Nuair atá an clár á chur le chéile ní scríobhtar amach an seoladh in aghaidh gach duine atá ar an chlár. Is é a tharlaíonn go gcuirtear le chéile liosta na mbailte fearainn i ngach toghroinn in ord aibítre agus go liostáiltear ainmneacha na ndaoine taobh istigh sa bhaile fearainn sin. Sa Ghaeltacht is i nGaeilge amháin atá liosta na mbailte fearainn sin, taobh amuigh den Ghaeltacht is i mBéarla amháin atá na liostaí.*

I noted that the right to use a name and address in Irish here was so basic and long established that it is probable that no particular provision was made for it in the legislation as it was never considered that any part of the public sector would refuse such a simple request.

I suggested to the Minister also that if one could not use an address in Irish to register on the list of electors that it was pointless making a case that addresses in Irish should be recognized at all, or ensuring that signage, nameplates or other indicators were bilingual throughout the country.

In addition, I considered that, as it was likely that the Register of Electors would be used as a basis for the organisation of the census, as well as for other listings, this practice of using addresses in English only, outside of the Gaeltacht, would introduce and establish an English language format in areas where a certain element of bilingualism was found previously.

In reply, the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government wrote as follows on the 30 November.

*"Firstly I must clarify that electors are fully entitled to submit their names and addresses in Irish to a local authority. My Department ensures that local authorities make forms available bilingually, or that forms are available in both official languages.*

*For this reason, no local authority should refuse to accept a name or address in Irish.*

*However, certain questions arise as regards the compilation of the register itself. When the register is being set up an address is not written out for every person on the register, instead an alphabetical list of the townlands is compiled for each electoral district and people's names are listed within those townlands. In the Gaeltacht the lists of townlands are in Irish only; outside the Gaeltacht the lists are in English only.*

## ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

*Caithfidh tú a thuiscint nach seoltaí atá anseo go baileach, ach bealach chun an clár a eagrú ar bhonn siosmaideach, agus ar dhóigh inar féidir le húdaráis áitiúla smacht a choinneáil ar eagrú an chlár. Mar shampla, ní chuirtear isteach ainm an tí, nó gnéithe eile den seoladh, fiú más cuid den seoladh a úsáideann an duine é féin.*

*Mar a tharlaíonn sé, fosta, is minic go mbíonn leaganacha éagsúla ag daoine ar ainm na sráide s'acu nó ar ainm an bhaile fearainn, i mBéarla nó i nGaeilge, sa Ghaeltacht agus taobh amuigh. Ach ní úsáidtear ach leagan amháin, arís mar gheall ar an ghá atá ann leagan amháin críochnúil a úsáid.*

*An clár ríomhaireachta a úsáidtear chun clár na dtoghthóirí a chur le chéile, tá sé curtha ar fáil ag an mBord Seirbhísí Ríomhaire Rialtais Áitiúil. Seolfaidh mé do litir ar aghaidh chuig an Bhord sa chás is gur féidir tuilleadh dátheangachais a thabhairt isteach sa chlár féin, ach ar ndóigh, ceann de na fadhbanna go gcaithfear a shárú is ea liosta iomlán logainmneacha oifigiúla Gaeilge a bheith curtha ar fáil: rud nach bhfuil ar fáil faoi láthair taobh amuigh den Ghaeltacht”.*

Sa fhreagra a sheol mé chuig an Aire d'fháiltigh mé roimh an dearbhú nach raibh aon chosc ar dhaoine ainm agus seoltaí i nGaeilge a úsáid agus iad ag soláthar eolais le clárú do chlár na dtoghthóirí lena n-údarás áitiúil.

Ach thug mé suntas don idirdhealú idir sin agus an bealach a eagraíonn na húdaráis áitiúla clár na dtoghthóirí féin le bailte fearainn in ord aibíteach trí Bhéarla ar fud na tíre ach amháin sa Ghaeltacht.

Dúirt mé an méid seo a leanas freisin:

*“Dá nglacfaí agus dá ndaingneofaí an córas seo bheadh an chosúlacht ann gur cur i gcéill agus cur amú ama a bheadh ann do dhuine a sheoladh a úsáid sa ghnó seo trí Ghaeilge agus iad ag clárú mar nach liostálfadh an t-údarás áitiúil iad ach trí Bhéarla ar chlár na dtoghthóirí.*

*Creidim go bhfuil an baol láidir ann freisin, mura bhfuil dul amú mór orm, go gcinnteoidh an córas sin gurb é an seoladh trí Bhéarla a úsáidfear le cártaí vótála a eisiúint ag an bpobal*

*You must understand that these are not really addresses but a method of categorising the register on a sensible basis and in a way in which local authorities can control the organisation of the register. For example, the name of the house or other aspects of the address are not entered even if these are part of the address used by the individual person.*

*Also, as it happens, people frequently use different versions of their street name or their townland, in English or in Irish, in the Gaeltacht and outside the Gaeltacht. However, only one version is used in the register, again because of the need to have one definitive version.*

*The computer programme used to compile the register of electors is provided by the Local Government Computer Services Board.*

*I will forward your letter to the Board as they may be able to introduce further bilingualism into the register itself, however one of the problems that will have to be addressed is the provision of a complete list of official placenames in Irish: something that is not currently available outside the Gaeltacht.” (Trans)*

In the reply that I sent to the Minister I welcomed the confirmation that people were not prohibited from using their names and addresses in Irish when providing information in order to register with the local authority on the register of electors.

However, I distinguished between this and the method used by the local authority of organising the register of electors alphabetically by townland, in English, throughout the country, apart from the Gaeltacht.

I also said as follows:

*“If this system were accepted and maintained it would appear that it would be a pretence and a complete waste of time for individuals to submit their addresses in Irish for this purpose when they register as the local authority will list them in English only in the register of electors.*

*I believe that there is a strong probability, unless I am greatly mistaken, that this system will ensure that it is the address in English that will be used for voting cards issued to the public*



## ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

*lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht, le haon faisnéis eile faoin toghchán a sheoladh chucu agus fiú le bileoga eolais na bpáirtithe agus na n-iarrthóirí eile a sheachadadh.*

*Creidim leis na hardscileanna teicneolaíochta faisnéise agus ríomhaireachta a bhfuil an tír seo bródúil astu, mar is ceart go mbeadh, nach bhféadfadh sé a bheith lasmuigh de réimse cumais an stáit déileáil le ceist seo na liostála ar chlár na dtoghthóirí agus aitheantas a thabhairt do stádas bunreachtúil na teanga."*

Thagair mé freisin don phointe a rinne an tAire nach raibh liosta iomlán logainmneacha oifigiúla ar fáil lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht agus mheabhraigh mé go raibh naoi gcinn eile d'Orduithe Logainmneacha déanta do cheantair lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht ag an Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003. Tá liostaí oifigiúla ar fáil d'ainmneacha na gcúigí agus na gcontaetha, lárionaid daonra agus dúichí agus logainmneacha sna contaetha seo a leanas: Contae Thiobraid Árann, Contae Uíbh Fháilí, Contae Mhuineacháin, Contae Luimnigh, Contae Lú agus Contae Chill Chainnigh.

Sa bhreis air sin tá leaganacha oifigiúla de gach Sráidainm i gCathair Bhaile Átha Cliath daingnithe agus foilsithe ag Comhairle na Cathrach ansin tar éis dóibh dul i gcomhairle leis an gCoimisiún Logainmneacha.

Dúirt mé leis an Aire freisin gur cúnamh an-mhór é aon chéimeanna a bheartódh sé le cinntiú go bhforbrófaí córais a thabharfadh cothrom na Féinne don chuid sin den phobal a roghnódh a gcuid seoltaí a úsáid trí Ghaeilge don ghnó seo.

Cé is moite d'admháil ón Aire go raibh a raibh sa litir sin á mheas, ní raibh aon dul chun cinn déanta i leith an cháis seo faoi dheireadh na bliana 2006.

*outside the Gaeltacht, for any other information about the election sent to them and even for information leaflets distributed by the parties and the other candidates.*

*I believe that with the excellent information technology and computer skills of which this country is justly proud that it could not be beyond the ability of the state to deal with this issue of listing on the register of electors while giving recognition to the constitutional position of the language." (Trans)*

I referred also to the point made by the Minister that complete lists of official placenames were not available outside the Gaeltacht and reminded him that nine Placenames Orders had been made for areas outside the Gaeltacht by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the Official Languages Act 2003. Official lists are available for the names of the provinces and counties, major centres of population and districts and for placenames in the following counties: County Tipperary, County Offaly, County Monaghan, County Limerick, County Louth and County Kilkenny.

In addition Dublin City Council, following consultation with the Placenames Commission, has confirmed and published official versions of all streetnames in Dublin City.

I also suggested to the Minister that any steps he takes to ensure the development of a system which would provide equality for that section of the population which would wish to use their addresses in Irish for this purpose would be very beneficial.

Apart from an acknowledgement from the Minister that this letter was under consideration, no further progress was made in this case by the end of 2006.

## ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

#### Cosaint oidhreacht

Tarraingíodh aird m'Oifige ar roinnt ionstraimí reachtúla a bhí déanta ag an Aire Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil a bhain le cosaint a thabhairt don oidhreacht nádúrtha i limistéir áirithe Ghaeltachta.

Tá sé ina riachtanas dlíthiúil de réir Alt 33(2)(a) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus de réir an Ordaithe Logainmneacha (Ceantair Ghaeltachta) 2004, a tháinig i bhfeidhm an 28 Márta 2005, go mbaintear úsáid as an leagan Gaeilge d'aon logainm oifigiúil Ghaeltachta in "aon Acht den Oireachtas a rithfear tar éis an dáta feidhme nó in **aon ionstraim reachtúil** a dhéanfar tar éis an dáta sin faoi aon Acht."

Tá sé ráite san alt céanna sin d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 i gcás logainmneacha Ghaeltachta nach bhfuil feidhm ná éifeacht a thuilleadh leis an leagan Béarla de logainm ... "in aon ionstraim reachtúil a dhéanfar tar éis an dáta sin faoi aon Acht."

Bhí an chosúlacht ar chúrsaí go raibh ionstraimí reachtúla déanta i dtaca le gnóthaí oidhreacht do limistéir áirithe Ghaeltachta ó bhí 28 Márta 2005 ann, ach gurb iad na seanlogainmneacha Béarla nach bhfuil aon fheidhm ná éifeacht a thuilleadh leo sa réimse seo a úsáideadh.

Luaim, mar shampla, na logainmneacha a bhí tugtha in ionstraimí reachtúla ar nós IR 584 de 2005 (a bhain le ceantair Mhaigh Cuilinn, an Spidéal agus na bhForbacha, Co. na Gaillimhe) agus a tugadh i bhfeidhm ar an 20 Meán Fómhair 2005 chomh maith le IR 460 de 2005 (a bhain le ceantar Charna, Co. na Gaillimhe) agus IR 489 de 2005 (a bhain le ceantar Pholl an tSómais, Co. Mhaigh Eo) agus a tugadh i bhfeidhm 27 Iúil 2005.

Tharraing mé aird an Aire Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil ar an gcás seo i mí Feabhra 2006 agus dúirt mé go raibh an chosúlacht láidir ar chúrsaí gur dheacair a chruthú go mbeadh aon fheidhm ná éifeacht le haon ionstraim reachtúil a rinneadh tar éis 28 Márta 2005 nach raibh ag teacht le hAlt 33 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla

#### Heritage protection

The attention of my Office was drawn to certain statutory instruments made by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government which concerned the protection of natural heritage in specific Gaeltacht areas.

It is a statutory requirement, in accordance with Section 33(2)(a) of the Official Languages Act and the Placenames (Ceantair Ghaeltachta) Order 2004 which came into effect on 28 March 2005, that the Irish version of any official Gaeltacht placename be used in "in any Act of the Oireachtas passed after the operative date or **any statutory instrument** made after that date under any Act."

The same section of the Official Languages Act 2003 specifies that in the case of officially recognised Gaeltacht placenames the English language version of the placename shall no longer have any force and effect in "any statutory instrument made after that date under any Act."

It appeared that statutory instruments had been made in relation to natural heritage protection in certain Gaeltacht areas since 28 March 2005 but use had been made of the English language versions of placenames, which no longer had any force or effect in these particular circumstances.

Examples of statutory instruments in which such placenames had been used include SI 584 of 2005 (which related to the areas of Maigh Cuilinn, An Spidéal and Na Forbacha in Co. Galway) and which came into effect on the 20 September 2005, as well as SI 460 of 2005 (which related to the area of Carna, Co. Galway) and SI 489 of 2005 (which related to the area of Poll an tSómais, Co. Mayo) and which came into effect on 27 July 2005.

I drew the attention of the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the matter in February 2006 and said that it appeared that it would be difficult to argue that any statutory instrument made after 28 March 2005 would have any force or effect, if it did not comply with Section 33 of the Official Languages Act

## ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

agus leis an Ordú Logainmneacha (Ceantair Ghaeltachta) 2004.

I litir dar dáta 18 Bealtaine 2006 thug an tAire le fios dom go raibh súil aige “go mbeadh sé in ann na hionstraimí reachtúla míchearta a athsholáthar taobh istigh de thrí mhí” agus nach n-éireodh “an botún sin arís.”

Cúis díomá dom a thabhairt faoi deara ag deireadh na bliana 2006 – breis agus seacht mí tar éis eisiúint na litreach sin – nár chosúil fós an scéal a bheith curtha ina cheart. Chiallaigh an t-easnamh sin gur dheacair cás a dhéanamh go raibh bunús ceart dlíthiúil leis an gcosaint oidhreachta a ceapadh a bheith ag na háiteanna a bhí i gceist, rud a d'fhéadfadh impleachtaí móra a bheith aige ní hamháin i réimse na hoidhreachta féin ach i gcúrsaí pleanála agus forbartha freisin.

Ní miste a rá nár léir ach an oiread go raibh aon fhógra poiblí déanta go raibh aon locht ar na hionstraimí reachtúla a bhí i gceist agus gur fágadh ar fáil don phobal iad le linn na bliana 2006 ar shuíomh gréasáin na Roinne Comhshaoil, Oidhreachta agus Rialtais Áitiúil i dteannta iliomad ionstraimí reachtúla eile nár bhain aon fhadhb leo.

and with the Placenames (Ceantair Ghaeltachta) Order 2004.

In a letter of 18 May 2006 the Minister said that he hoped to be able “to reissue the incorrect statutory instruments within three months” and that the same error would not arise again.

I was disappointed to discover at the end of 2006, more than seven months after the issuing of that letter, that it appeared that the matter had not been corrected. This omission meant that it would be difficult to make a case that there was any legal basis to the heritage protection that the areas in question were thought to have. This situation could have major repercussions not only in relation to heritage protection but also in matters of planning and development.

It should also be noted that it would appear that no public notice was issued to say that these statutory instruments were defective and they remained available to the public, throughout the year 2006, on the website of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government along with many other statutory instruments whose validity was not in question.

#### Cosaint leanaí

Bhí m'Oifig i mbun cumarsáide leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta le linn na bliana 2006 i dtaca le moill a bheith ar leagan Gaeilge de cháipéis rithábhachtach a bhain le cosaint leanaí. D'fhág easpa na cáipéise seo trí Ghaeilge go bhféadfadh impleachtaí tromchúiseacha a bheith i gceist do chur i bhfeidhm clár cosanta leanaí nó do chúrsaí teanga i scoileanna áirithe.

Bhí an chumarsáid leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta fréamhaithe i ngearán a bhí déanta le m'Oifig ag scoil dara leibhéal Gaeltachta a bhí tiomanta go hiomlán don chlár cosanta leanaí a fheidhmiú go foirfe ach nár thuig cén chúis gur ceapadh gur trí Bhéarla ba chúil é seo a dhéanamh.

Ba chosúil gur dháil an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta eochaircháipéis ar chosaint leanaí chuig gach scoil dara leibhéal le linn na scoilbhliana 2004/05 agus faoi Mheán

#### Child protection

My Office was in touch with the Department of Education and Science during 2006 in relation to a delay in the publication of an Irish version of very important guidelines on child protection. The absence of this publication in Irish could have had serious implications either for the implementation of child protection guidelines or language affairs in certain schools.

The communication with the Department of Education and Science was based on a complaint to my Office from a post primary Gaeltacht school which was fully committed to the implementation of a child protection programme but wondered why it was felt that the matter should be addressed in English.

It appeared that the Department of Education and Science had distributed a key document on child protection to all post primary schools during the 2004/05 school year and by September 2005

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### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

Fómhair 2005 bhí soláthar breise curtha ar fáil le go mbeadh cóip phearsanta ar fáil do gach ball foirne.

Ní dócha gur féidir aon ábhar eile a shamhlú a bheadh chomh leochaileach nó chomh tábhachtach d'aon scoil le clár cosanta leanaí.

"Child Protection Guidelines for post primary schools" teideal na cáipéise agus ba i mBéarla amháin a bhí fáil uirthi, fiú i scoileanna Gaeltachta agus i scoileanna eile a fheidhmíonn trí Ghaeilge.

Eisíodh ciorclán dátheangach i mí Mheán Fómhair 2005 ag moladh do bhoird bhainistíochta glacadh go foirmiúil leis na treoirínte mar pholasaí oifigiúil scoile a luaite agus a d'fhéadfaí agus na céimeanna cuí a thógáil lena bhfeidhmiú.

Meabhraíodh freisin go raibh sé ceadaithe do gach scoil dúnadh ar feadh leathlae chun deis a thabhairt don fhoireann ar fad sa scoil mioneolas a fháil ar na treoirínte agus moladh go ndéanfaí sin roimh dheireadh an chéad téarma in 2005/06.

Dúradh gur chiallaigh foireann na scoile sa chás seo gach duine a bhíonn gníomhach i bhfeidhmiú na scoile, go gairmiúil nó go deonach.

Ó tharla gan leagan Gaeilge a bheith le fáil an tráth seo is iad na roghanna a bheadh ag scoil a fheidhmíonn trí Ghaeilge sa chás seo ná díriú ar phlé agus ar fheidhmiú na cáipéise trí Bhéarla, aistriúchán "baile" neamhoifigiúil dá gcuid féin a dhéanamh ar an gcáipéis, nó an t-ábhar a chur siar go mbeadh fáil ar an leagan Gaeilge.

Ba dhócha gur leasc le cuid mhór scoileanna ábhar chomh leochaileach nó chomh ríthábhachtach sin a chur ar athló.

Ba dheacair a shamhlú ach an oiread go ndéanfadh gach scoil ar leith aistriúchán neamhoifigiúil dá gcuid féin a ullmhú tráth a ndéarfadh scoileanna go bhfuil cúraimí a ndóthain orthu cheana féin.

An rogha eile ná glacadh leis gur cheart na nósanna agus na cleachtais a bheadh fréamhaithe in éiteas na scoile a fhágáil ar leataobh agus feidhmiú trí Bhéarla leis an ábhar tábhachtach seo a phlé i measc bhaill foirne na scoile, le daoine a bhí gafa le riaradh agus le heagrú na scoile go deonach agus le baill den bhord bainistíochta.

additional copies had been despatched to all schools in order to provide each member of staff with a personal copy.

It is hardly possible to imagine a more sensitive or important issue for any school.

The document "Child Protection Guidelines for post primary schools" was provided in English only, even in the case of Gaeltacht or other schools functioning through Irish.

A bilingual circular was issued in September 2005 advising boards of management to formally adopt the guidelines as soon as possible as schools' official policy and to take the appropriate measures to implement them.

Schools were reminded that a half-day closure was permissible to allow staff to familiarise themselves with the guidelines and it was suggested this should happen before the end of the first term in 2005/06.

It was suggested that school staff for this purpose should include everyone participating either professionally or voluntarily in the functioning of the school.

Since an Irish language version of the document was not available at this stage the options open to each school functioning through Irish was to arrange the discussion and the implementation of the guideline through English, to produce an unofficial or "home" translation or to postpone the matter until an Irish language version was provided.

It would be most unlikely that many schools would wish to postpone such a sensitive and highly important matter.

It would also be difficult to imagine each school preparing their own unofficial translation at a time when schools would suggest that they are already overburdened.

The other option would be to accept that the custom and practice which is rooted in a school's ethos should be set aside and that this important matter be dealt with through English by staff including those involved in a voluntary capacity or as members of the board of management.

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### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

Ba chosúil nár chuir an fhoráil d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 dualgas reachtúil ar an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta maidir le foilsiú na dtreoirínte trí Ghaeilge nó go dátheangach mura raibh a leithéid comhaontaithe ag an Roinn i scéim teanga faoi Alt 11 den Acht.

Ach ba léir dom go bhféadfaí cás a dhéanamh gur chóir go mbeadh na treoirínte seo ar fáil trí Ghaeilge faoi Alt 7(2)(d) den Acht Oideachais 1998 nuair a chuirtear mar chúram reachtúil ar an Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta "seirbhísí taca trí Ghaeilge a sholáthar do scoileanna aitheanta a chuireann teagasc trí Ghaeilge ar fáil agus d'aon scoil aitheanta eile a iarrann soláthar den sórt sin" agus tugtar mar léiriú ar "sheirbhísí taca" in Alt 2 den Acht sin "seirbhísí teorach agus comhairliúcháin" agus "seirbhísí comhairleacha foime."

Thug an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta le fios go raibh leagan Gaeilge den cháipéis treoirínte 36 leathanach a eisíodh i mBéarla le linn na scoilbhliana 2004/5 le cur chuig na clódóirí i mí Eanáir 2006 agus go mbeidís ag na scoileanna i mí Feabhra.

Mhínigh an Roinn an mhoill leis an leagan Gaeilge ar an mbealach seo :

*"Tharla an mhoill ar sholáthar an leagain Ghaeilge de na Treoirínte de bharr mothálachta agus castachta an ábhair fhéin. Go deimhin, thóg ullmhú an leagain Bhéarla beagnach dhá bhliain de chomhairliúcháin agus de mhionscrúdú agus machnamh ar an téacs focal ar fhocal. Ba é an scéal céanna é leis an aistriúchán agus sheiceáil dhá sheirbhísí aistriúcháin eile an chéad aistriúchán agus dheimhnigh siad é sula mbeadh an Roinn sásta leis an téacs.*

*Tá na Treoirínte bunaithe ar "Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children" a d'fhoilsigh an Roinn Sláinte agus Leanaí i 1999 agus ba cheart iad a léamh in éineacht le Children First. Cloíonn na téarmaí a úsáidtear sna Treoirínte chomh dlúth agus is féidir leis na téarmaí i Children First. Ba chasta an obair í na Treoirínte a aistriú go Gaeilge óir níl aon leagan Gaeilge de Children First ann."*

It appeared that no provision of the Official Languages Act 2003 placed a statutory obligation on the Department of Education and Science in relation to the publication of such guidelines through Irish or bilingually unless such were agreed in a language scheme under section 11 of the Act.

It appeared to me, however, that a case could be made that the guidelines should be published in Irish under Section 7(2)(d) of the Education Act 1998 where a statutory function obliges the Minister for Education and Science "to provide support services through Irish to recognised schools which provide teaching through Irish and to any other recognised school which requests such provision" and where support services are defined in Section 2 of the Act to include "guidance and counselling services" and "staff advisory services."

The Department of Education and Science informed me initially that an Irish language version of the 36 page guidelines document – issued in English in the 2004/05 schoolyear – would be sent to the printers in January 2006 and issued to schools in February.

The Department explained the delay as follows:

*"The delay in providing the Irish version of guidelines occurred because of the sensitivity and the complexity of the subject. In fact the preparation of the English version took nearly two years of consultation and detailed word for word analysis and consideration of the text.*

*The same applied to the translation where two translation services checked the original translation and confirmed it before the Department was satisfied with the text.*

*The Guidelines are based on "Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children" published by the Department of Health and Children in 1999 and should be read in conjunction with Children First. The terms used in the Guidelines conform as closely as possible with the terms in Children First. The translation of the Guidelines to Irish was a complex matter since there is no Irish language version of Children First." (Trans)*



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### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

Fós féin níor eisíodh na treoirínte i nGaeilge i mí Feabhra 2006 mar a bhí beartaithe.

Tar éis tuilleadh comhfhreagrais le m'Oifig mhínigh an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta i mí an Mheithimh 2006 an mhoill bhreise:

*"Bhí sé ar intinn na Roinne an leagan Gaeilge den Child Protection Guidelines a eisiúint do gach iar-bhunscoil i mí na Feabhra seo caite. Nuair a foilsíodh an Ferns Report, áfach, cinneadh ar imlitir eile (0062/2006) a eisiúint do gach aon scoil chun aird ar leith a dhíriú ar an bhfadhb a bhaineann le cosaint páistí. Chun go mbeadh foilsíú na himlitreach comhuaineach le foilsíú na dTreoirínte, tháinig moill ar an doiciméadú a eisiúint do scoileanna. Mar sin féin, rinneadh an imlitir sin mar aon le cóipeanna den Child Protection Guidelines a sheoladh, níos luaithe an mhí seo, chuig gach aon iar-bhunscoil."*

Mar sin, is i ndeireadh na scoilbhliana 2005/06 a cuireadh ar fáil leagan Gaeilge de na treoirínte a bhí scaipthe i mBéarla le linn na scoilbhliana 2004/05.

Ó tharla nach bhféadfadh aon éifeacht shiarghabhálach a bheith ag an eachtra seo bhí súil agam, áfach, go ndíreodh sé aird na Roinne ar an scéal le súil is nach dtarlódh a leithéid arís agus chuige sin mheabhraigh m'Oifig don Roinn athuair i mí an Mheithimh 2006 na dualgais teanga atá in Alt 7(2)(d) den Acht Oideachais 1998 agus dheimhnigh an Roinn go raibh an méid a bhí sa litir sin á thabhairt san áireamh acu.

The guidelines in Irish were still not published, however, in February 2006 as intended.

Following further correspondence the Department of Education and Science explained the additional delay to my Office in June 2006:

*"It was the Department's intention to issue the Irish version of the Child Protection Guidelines to all post primary schools last February. However, with the publication of the Ferns Report it was decided to issue another circular (0062/2006) to all schools specifically highlighting the problem of child protection. To ensure the simultaneous publication of that circular with the Guidelines, a delay occurred in issuing the documentation to schools. However, the circular and copies of the Child Protection Guidelines were issued earlier this month to all post primary schools." (Trans.)*

Therefore, the guidelines first issued in English in the 2004/2005 schoolyear were eventually distributed in Irish at the end of the 2005/06 schoolyear.

Since little retrospective benefit could be gained from this matter, I hoped that it would focus the Department's attention on the issue in the expectation that such lapses could be prevented in the future.

My Office reminded the Department again in June 2006 of its obligations to schools teaching through Irish contained in Section 7(2)(d) of the Education Act 1998. The Department confirmed that the matter had been taken into account.

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### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

#### Láithreáin Ghréasáin

**Rinneadh gearán le m'Oifig le linn na bliana 2006 faoi easpa aitheantais don Ghaeilge a bheith ar shuíomh gréasáin Bhus Éireann – atá go príomha i mBéarla – cé go raibh eolas áirithe tugtha ansin i gcúig cinn de theangacha Eorpacha eile.**

Thug an gearánaí suntas don abairt seo ar an suíomh – “Information on Bus Éireann services is available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Polish languages.”

Cé nach mbeadh locht dá laghad ag aon duine ar sheirbhís eolais a bheith á tabhairt in an oiread teangacha agus ab fhéidir, mheas mé gur thrua nach ndéanfaí iarracht éigin seirbhís i bpríomhtheanga oifigiúil an stáit a chur ar fáil do phobal na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge, fiú mura raibh dualgas soiléir reachtúil chuige sin i gceist an tráth sin.

Mhínigh m'Oifig don ghearánaí, áfach, nach bhfuil dualgas reachtúil faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 ar Bhus Éireann (mar chuid de Chóras Iompair Éireann) déileáil le húsáid na Gaeilge ar a shuíomh gréasáin go dtí go mbeidh dréacht-scéim teanga faoi Alt 11 den Acht á hullmhú.

Sa bhreis air sin, cé go raibh sé molta go sonrach d'eagraíochtaí stáit na tíre sna Treoirlínte a d'fhoilsigh Roinn an Taoisigh dar teideal “Foilsíú ar an nGréasán” (Deireadh Fómhair 1999) go gcuirfí seirbhís a thugann comhaitheantas don Ghaeilge agus don Bhéarla ar fáil ar a gcuid suímh ghréasáin, ní raibh dualgas reachtúil i gceist cloí leis na treoirlínte sin.

Dá bhrí sin, is de réir “spiorad” na reachtaíochta a tharraing m'Oifig an gearán anuas le bainistíocht Bhus Éireann.

Ghlac bainistíocht Bhus Éireann leis an gcás nár cheart imeallú a bheith déanta ar an nGaeilge ar an suíomh gréasáin nuair a bhí eolas áirithe curtha ar fáil i bhFraincis, i nGearmáinis, in Iodáilis, i Spáinnis agus i bPolainnis chomh maith le Béarla agus beartaíodh gur cheart an t-ábhar sin a bhí ar fáil sna cúig theanga eachtrannacha sin a sholáthar i nGaeilge freisin agus rinne siad sin.

#### Websites

**A complaint was made to my Office during 2006 regarding the lack of recognition given to the Irish language on the Bus Éireann website – which is primarily in English – despite a certain amount of information being given in five other European languages.**

The complainant was struck by this sentence on the website – “Information on Bus Éireann services is available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Polish Languages.”

Although no one could fault an information service being available in as many languages as possible, I thought it a pity that little effort was made to provide some element of service in the first official language to the Gaeltacht population and to Irish-speakers in general, even if there was no precise statutory obligation to do so at the time.

My Office did explain to the complainant, however, that under the Official Languages Act 2003 Bus Éireann (as part of Córas Iompair Éireann) was not statutorily required to deal with the issue of the use of Irish on their website until such time as a draft language scheme was being prepared under section 11 of the Act.

Moreover, although it was firmly recommended to state organisations in Guidelines published by the Department of the Taoiseach under the title “Publication on the Web” (October 1999) to provide services on their websites that would give equal status to both the English and Irish languages, there was no statutory obligation in place to adhere to these guidelines.

Therefore, it was under the “spirit” of the legislation that my Office raised this complaint with the management of Bus Éireann.

Bus Éireann accepted the argument that the Irish language should not be marginalised on the website when a certain amount of information was available in French, German, Italian, Spanish and in Polish as well as in English and agreed that that information which was available in these five foreign languages should be provided in the Irish language also. This was duly done.

## ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

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Dúirt Bus Éireann freisin go mbeadh impleachtaí tromchúiseacha airgeadais i gceist don chomhlacht dá gcaithfidís gach cuid den suíomh gréasáin a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge agus aithníodh gur i gcomhthéacs na dréacht-scéime teanga a bheadh le hullmhú acu a dhíreofaí ar fhorbairt bhreise ar an tseirbhís trí Ghaeilge ar an suíomh sin.

Rinneadh gearán eile ar an múnla céanna le m'Oifig gar do dheireadh na bliana 2006 nár chosúil go raibh sraith de dhoiciméid a bhain leis an gcóras oideachais anseo curtha ar fáil trí Ghaeilge ar shuíomh gréasáin na Roinne Oideachais agus Eolaíochta, cé go raibh na doiciméid seo curtha ar fáil le chéile i nGearmáinis, Laitvis, Liotuáinis, Polainnis, Spáinnis agus i Rúisis chomh maith le Béarla.

Ba léir ón suíomh gréasáin gur doiciméid le buneolas a thabharfadh léargas ar fheidhmiú an chórais oideachais a bhí anseo a bhí dírithe ar thuismitheoirí nua anseo. Bhain na doiciméid le réimse leathan ábhar ina measc tuismitheoirí mar chomhpháirtithe san oideachas, treoirínte ar dhéileáil le bulaíocht, córais achomhairc agus mar sin de.

Nuair a tharraing m'Oifig an cheist anuas leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta tugadh le fios go raibh an chuid ba mhó de na doiciméid seo aistrithe go Gaeilge cheana féin.

Thuig an Roinn go mbeadh sé inmholta na leaganacha Gaeilge de na doiciméid ar fad a bhí á soláthar sna teangacha eachtrannacha a nascadh le chéile in aon ionad amháin i dteannta na leaganacha Béarla ar an suíomh mar éascaíocht don chuid sin den phobal a mbeadh an Ghaeilge mar rogha teanga acu agus deimhníodh go ndéanfaí é sin.

Bus Éireann said there would be serious financial implications for the company if they were obliged to provide all sections of the website in the Irish language and they acknowledged that it would be in the context of the preparation of a draft language scheme that they would focus on the additional development of services in the Irish language on the website.

A similar complaint was made to my Office shortly before the end of 2006. It appeared that a series of documents relating to the education system was not available in the Irish language on the Department of Education and Science website despite these documents being available together in German, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Spanish and in Russian as well as in English.

It was apparent from the website that these documents contained basic information on the education system which was directed at new parents here. The documents related to a wide range of subjects including parents as joint partners in education, guidelines on dealing with bullying, systems of appeal etc.

When my Office raised this question with the Department of Education and Science we were informed that the majority of these documents had already been translated into Irish.

The Department understood it would be desirable that Irish language versions of the documents that were available in foreign languages would be also collated on the website and provided in association with the English language versions to aid those members of the public whose language of choice is Irish. They confirmed that they would do this.

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#### Scrúduithe stáit

**Rinneadh gearán le m'Oifig le linn na bliana 2006 faoin gcóras nach gceadaíonn aon mharcanna bónais i gcodanna áirithe de na scrúduithe stáit d'iarrthóirí a fhreagraíonn trí Ghaeilge.**

Tá rialacháin an Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta i dtaobh bhronnadh na marcanna sin leagtha amach sa leabhrán "Rules and Programmes for Secondary Schools" atá eisithe faoi réir na gcumhachtaí atá tugtha sna hAchtanna Oideachais 1878-1998.

Mhaígh an gearánaí nach raibh aon mharcanna bónais á mbronnadh ar iarrthóirí a fhreagraíonn trí Ghaeilge na codanna scríofa sin de scrúduithe stáit ar tionscadail, staidéar taighde nó cleachtaí eile iad a dhéanann iarrthóirí lasmuigh de shuíomh foirmiúil an halla scrúdaithe.

Deir na rialacháin reatha i dtaca le marcanna bónais –

*"A candidate who answers in Irish at the written examination in the various subjects set out below may be given bonus marks in addition to the marks gained in the subject ....."*

Is cosúil, áfach, go bhfuil an bhrí á baint as na rialacháin nár chóir na marcanna bónais a cheadú i gcás na dtionscnamh agus cleachtaí eile mar nach "written examination" iad. Ach glacann an tAcht Oideachais leis mar shainmhíniú gur páipéar scrúdaithe iad aon "tionscadail nó cleachtaí praiticiúla a cheanglaítear ar iarrthóirí a dhéanamh".

Bhí mé den bharúil gur gníomh dearfach ar son na teanga a bheadh ann sa chóras oideachais soiléiriú a fháil ar na rialacháin atá i gceist anseo le cinntiú go meallann saothar trí Ghaeilge i dtionscnaimh den chineál seo na marcanna bónais céanna agus a cheadaítear sa chuid eile de na scrúduithe.

Nuair a tharraing mé an cheist anuas leis an Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta mheabhraigh mé di gur tuigeadh dom go raibh brú leanúnach ar mhúinteoirí i scoileanna Gaeltachta agus Gaelscoileanna cead a thabhairt go ndéanfaí tionscnaimh scrúdaithe den chineál seo trí Bhéarla mar nach bhfeictear aon bhuntáiste don dalta an

#### State examinations

**A complaint was made to my Office during 2006 about the system which grants bonus marks, in certain sections of the state examinations, to applicants who answer in Irish.**

The Minister for Education and Science's regulations in relation to the granting of such marks are available in the booklet "Rules and Programmes for Secondary Schools" which is issued under the powers granted to the Minister in the Education Acts 1878 -1998.

The complainant claimed that no extra marks were being granted to candidates who provided answers in Irish to written sections of the examination such as projects, research work or other tasks which are undertaken by candidates outside the formal setting of the exam hall.

In relation to bonus marks the current regulations say –

*"A candidate who answers in Irish at the written examination in the various subjects set out below may be given bonus marks in addition to the marks gained in the subject ....."*

It appears, however, that the regulation is being interpreted as meaning that bonus marks should not be given in the case of a project or other task as it is not a "written examination." However, the Education Act defines examination papers to include "projects or practical exercises ...which candidates are required to complete."

I considered that it would be a positive action on behalf of the language within the education system to obtain clarification in relation to the relevant regulations in order to ensure that work in Irish on projects of this kind attracted the same bonus marks as are granted in the rest of the examination.

When I raised this question with the Minister for Education and Science, I reminded her that it was my understanding that there was continuous pressure on teachers in Gaeltacht schools and in Gaelscoileanna to allow pupils to undertake examination projects of this kind in English, as pupils perceived that the extra work involved in

## ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

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obair bhreise a bhaineann lena soláthar i nGaeilge. Agus tá obair bhreise i gceist sa mhéid is gur minic na príomhfhoinsí eolais a bheith ar fáil i mBéarla amháin. Sa bhreis air sin, i gcás gur foghlaimeoirí Gaeilge iad na daltaí tá brú breise i gceist in ullmhú tionscnaimh nó saothar taighde sa dara teanga acu.

Mheabhraigh mé di freisin go bhféadfaí an bhrí a bhaint as cúrsaí go raibh leatrom áirithe á dhéanamh ar dhaltaí a fhreagraíonn trí Ghaeilge gan marcanna bónais agus go bhféadfadh an chosúlacht a bheith ann go raibh creimeadh á dhéanamh ar chóras na marcanna bónais de bharr an mhéadaithe i réimse na dtionscnamh agus na staidéar taighde eile sna scrúduithe.

Tá méadú nach beag tagtha ar líon na n-ábhar a bhfuil tionscadail nó cleachtaí eile mar chuid lárnach díobh anois sna scrúduithe stáit agus suas le 60% de mharcanna ag dul leo i gcásanna áirithe. I gcás na hArdteistiméireachta sa Stair agus sa Tíreolaíocht tá 20% de na marcanna ar Thuarascáil Taighde agus san Eacnamaíocht Bhaile tá 20% tugtha do Thuarascáil Obair Chúrsa.

Sa Teastas Sóisearach in OSSP tá 60% de na marcanna ag dul ar Thuarascáil Taighde agus san Eolaíocht tá 25% leagtha amach ar Thuarascáil Obair Chúrsa.

Deirtear freisin go bhfuil sé i gceist amach anseo an Teastas Sóisearach ar fad a bhunú ar obair thionscadail agus obair 'sheachtrach' bhreise a bheith san Ardteistiméireacht.

Is cinnte go bhfuil an scríbhneoireacht i gcoilín an chur i láthair i ngach tionscnamh agus, mar shampla sa siollabas staire don Ardteistiméireacht, ceadaítear 20% marcanna do thuarascáil ar staidéar taighde agus formhór na marcanna sin (12%) ar aiste fhada.

Bhíodh na marcanna bónais á gceadú don staidéar taighde staire tráth nuair a bhíodh an staidéar taighde féin mar chuid den scrúdú foirmiúil scríofa.

Thuig mé, áfach, go bhféadfaí gur aimhrialtacht shimplí a bhí i gceist anseo a tháinig chun cinn mar nár leasaíodh na rialacháin leis an méadú ar thionscnaimh sna scrúduithe stáit a thabhairt san áireamh.

undertaking such projects in Irish was not recognised with additional marks. And there is extra work involved because the main sources of information are available in English only. In addition, where the pupils are learners of Irish they are under additional pressure in preparing projects or research work in their second language.

I reminded her also that the situation could be perceived as being unfair to those pupils answering in Irish that did not receive bonus marks and it could appear that the system of bonus marks was being eroded as a result of the increase in the proportion of projects and other research studies forming part of the examinations.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of subjects that have projects or other tasks as a central part of the relevant state examination and up to 60% of the marks are allotted to them in certain cases. In the case of the Leaving Certificate Examination in History and Geography 20% of the marks go for the Research Report and in Home Economics 20% are assigned to the Report of Course Work.

In the Junior Certificate in CSPE 60% of the marks are allotted to the Research Project and in Science 25% is assigned to the Report on Course Work.

I understand that it is intended that in future the Junior Certificate will be based completely on project work and that the Leaving Certificate will involve additional project work.

Written work is undoubtedly a central part of the presentation in the case of such projects, for example, in the history syllabus for the Leaving Certificate 20% of the marks are allocated to a report on the research study and most of those marks (12%) are for a long essay.

Previously the research study itself was part of the formal written examination and the bonus marks were granted then for the historical research study.

I thought that what had happened may have been just a simple anomaly that had arisen because the regulation had not been revised to take account of the increased project work as part of the state examinations.



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Bhí sé soiléir freisin go bhféadfadh imní a bheith ann go mbeadh cúnamh á fháil ó thaobh na Gaeilge i dtionscnamh nó i staidéar taighde ag daltaí a d'fhágfadh nach é a gcuid oibre féin ar fad a bheadh sa chuid seo den saothar scrúdaithe. Ach d'fhéadfadh an baol céanna a bheith fíor freisin i gcás na hoibre substaintiúla ar an tionscnaimh féin i mBéarla agus lena sheachaint tá nósanna imeachta i bhfeidhm maidir le fiordheimhniú chun a chinntiú gur obair dá chuid féin í tuarascáil an iarrthóra.

Bheartaigh an tAire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta an comhfhreagras uaim a chur faoi bhráid an Choimisiúin um Scrúduithe Stáit agus dúirt:

*"Tá grúpa oibre bunaithe ag an gCoimisiún chun iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar raon leathan de cheisteanna faoi dháileadh na bpointí bónais don Ghaeilge. I measc na gceisteanna a phléifear ná ar chóir córas na bpointí bónais a leathnú chuig gach ábhar scrúdaithe nach dtagann faoin gcóras faoi láthair nó é a chur i bhfeidhm i gcásanna áirithe. Táim tar éis iarraidh ar Choimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit tuairisc a chur chugam chomh luath agus atá gnó an ghrúpa oibre curtha i gcrích."*

Dheimhnigh an tAire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta dom i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2006 go mbeadh an grúpa oibre atá i gceist ag tabhairt a dtuairisce ar an ábhar don Choimisiún um Scrúduithe Stáit agus dí féin mar Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta le linn na bliana 2007.

It was clear that it might have been a matter for concern that help would be available to pupils on the Irish language element of such projects or research studies and as a result that this part of their examination work might not be exclusively the student's own work.

However this doubt could also arise in the case of the substantive work on the project in English and to avoid this there are authentication procedures in use which can confirm that the candidate's project consists exclusively of his or her own work.

The Minister for Education and Science decided to forward my correspondence to the State Examinations Commission to consider and said:

*"The Commission has set up a working group to investigate a broad range of questions in relation to the granting of bonus points in Irish. Among the questions that will be discussed are whether the system for the award of bonus points should be widened to include every examination subject that does not come under the system at present or if it should be implemented in certain cases only. I have asked the State Examinations Commission to report to me as soon as the work of the study group is complete."*

In October 2006 the Minister for Education and Science confirmed to me that the relevant working group would provide its report on the matter to the State Examinations Commission and to her as Minister for Education and Science in the year 2007.

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### Tástáil Tiomána

**Rinneadh roinnt gearán éagsúil le m'Oifig le linn na bliana maidir le deacrachtaí éagsúla a bhí ag daoine ar mhian leo dul tríd an bpróiseas scrúdaithe trí Ghaeilge le ceadúnas tiomána a fháil.**

Tugann an Roinn Iompair le fios gur féidir le daoine a rogha teanga – Gaeilge nó Béarla – a úsáid don tástáil teorice tiomána agus don tástáil tiomána féin.

I gcás amháin i mí an Mheithimh seoladh ar ais an t-iarratas ar thástáil teorice tiomána trí Ghaeilge mar go raibh an táille mhícheart íoctha. Dúradh i litir i mBéarla chuig an iarrthóir "Incorrect fee received as of 12/12/05 fee €35.60." Ach bhí an t-iarrthóir tar éis na teoracha a bhí tugtha ar an teachtaireacht réamhthaifeadta trí Ghaeilge a leanúint go dílis agus bhí sé ráite ansin go soiléir "Cosnaíonn an scrúdú teorice €34."

Bhí sé ráite ar an bhfoirm Ghaeilge go mbeadh an t-eolas faoin táille reatha le haimsiú ar an teachtaireacht réamhthaifeadta. Ba chosúil, áfach, nár leasaíodh an leagan Gaeilge den teachtaireacht réamhthaifeadta in imeacht na tréimhse sé mhí.

Rinneadh gearáin arís le m'Oifig le linn na bliana nach raibh fáil ar chóipeanna i nGaeilge de Rialacha an Bhóthair (féach Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2005). Ní cosúil gur cuireadh leagan i nGaeilge ar fáil ó bhí 1993 ann. Tugadh le fios do m'Oifig i dtús báire go mbeadh leagan nua i nGaeilge nó go dátheangach ar fáil "uair éigin sa samhradh" (2005) agus níos déanaí tagraíodh do "spriocdháta i mí Lúnasa 2005" agus faoi dheireadh na bliana sin dúradh go mbeadh a leithéid ar fáil "i bhfómhar na bliana 2006". Fós féin agus an bhliain 2006 caite níor foilsíodh leagan Gaeilge nó dátheangach de Rialacha an Bhóthair.

Bhain gearáin eile chun m'Oifige faoin bpróiseas tástála teorice tiomána le duine le Gaeilge a bheith ar fáil nuair a ghlaofaí ar an uimhir ar leith a bhí curtha ar fáil go hoifigiúil agus fógartha go speisialta mar sheirbhís "trí Ghaeilge." Tá cuid áirithe den obair a bhaineann leis an réimse seo á riaradh ag cuideachta phríobháideach thar ceann na Roinne Iompair ach deimhníonn an Roinn go

### Driving test

**A variety of complaints were made to my Office during the year concerning various difficulties encountered by members of the public in their efforts to take the examination in Irish to obtain a driving license.**

The Department of Transport advises that people may use their choice of language, Irish or English, for both the theory test and the actual driving test itself.

In one case in June the application for the driving theory test was returned as the incorrect fee had been paid. A letter in English to the applicant said: "Incorrect fee received as of 12/12/05 fee €35.60." However the applicant had stringently followed directions given in a pre-recorded telephone message in Irish in which it was clearly stated that "The theory test costs €34."

It was stated on the Irish language form that information regarding current fees could be found on the pre-recorded message. It appears, however, that the Irish language version of the pre-recorded message had not been amended over a six month period.

Further complaints were made again to my Office during the year that copies of the Rules of the Road were not available in the Irish language (see Annual Report 2005). It emerged that an Irish language version has not been available since 1993. My Office was initially informed that a new Irish language or bilingual version would be available "some time in the summer" (2005), and subsequently that was amended to "a deadline in August 2005." At the end of that year it was said that this would be available "in the autumn of 2006." At the end of 2006 no Irish language or bilingual version of the Rules of the Road had yet been published.

Other complaints were directed to my Office concerning the driving theory testing process and the lack of persons with Irish available at the specific official telephone number which is advertised as providing a service "through Irish." A certain amount of the work involved in this area is conducted by a private company on behalf of the Department of Transport. However the Department does confirm that this company is

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bhfuil dualgas ar an gcuideachta sin seirbhís trí Ghaeilge a sholáthar. Le linn na bliana rinne feidhmeannach de chuid na Roinne Iompair scrúdú neamhspleách ar an tseirbhís tástála teorice tiomána trí Ghaeilge agus dúirt i litir chuig m'Oifig "...ní raibh mé sásta leis an tseirbhís a fuair mé trí Ghaeilge ach an oiread." Gheall sé céimeanna áirithe a thógáil ina leith.

Níos déanaí sa bhliain thug an cuideachta a riarann an córas tástála teorice tiomána thar ceann na Roinne le fios do m'Oifig gur thuig siad an fhadhb agus ghabh siad leithscéal as aon deacracht leis an tseirbhís trí Ghaeilge. Ag tagairt dóibh d'eachtra ar leith dúirt siad chomh maith:

*"Tuigtear go hiomlán go bhfuil dualgas agus freagracht orainn seirbhís dá leithéid a sholáthar agus táimid tiomanta le seirbhís den sórt sin a chur ar fáil dár n-iarrthóirí le Gaeilge uilig. Déanaimid iarracht meitheal de suas le tríúr le Gaeilge a choinneáil ar fáil san ionad glaonna i gcónaí. Mar sin féin, mar thoradh ar mheascán d'eachtraí lena n-áirítear daoine ag éirí as, agus ráta athraithe ard san fhoireann le Gaeilge, ní rabhamar in ann an tseirbhís seo a sholáthar ar an lá úd. Cuireadh an scéal ina cheart trí lá ina dhiaidh sin nuair a ceapadh duine nua le Gaeilge ar an bhfoireann."*

Tugadh le fios freisin go ndéanfaí "an ghné seo den tseirbhís a athbhreithniú go leanúnach lena chinntiú go gcloítear leis na riachtanais."

De bharr socruithe nua reachtúla a tháinig i bhfeidhm le linn na bliana 2006 ní faoi chúram na Roinne Iompair atá an tseirbhís tástála tiomána ón 1 Meán Fómhair 2006 ach faoi chúram an chomhlachta phoiblí nuabhunaithe an tÚdarás um Shábháilteacht ar Bhóithre.

Ní raibh an comhlacht poiblí nuabhunaithe seo tugtha faoi scáth Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 faoi dheireadh na bliana 2006 agus dá bhrí sin ní bheadh aon údarás ag m'Oifig aon ní faoi chúrsaí teanga a tharraingt anuas leis an Údarás sin.

obliged to provide services through Irish. During the year a Department of Transport official conducted an independent examination of the driving theory test service available through Irish and said in a letter to my Office that "I, myself, was not satisfied with the service I received in Irish either" (Trans). He promised to take steps to rectify the situation.

Later in the year the company that administers the driving theory test system on behalf of the Department of Transport informed my Office that it understood the problem and apologised for any difficulties with the Irish language service. Commenting on a particular incident they also said:

*"We understand completely that there are obligations and responsibilities on us to offer this service and we are dedicated to offering a service of this kind to all our applicants with Irish. We will endeavour to provide a team of up to three people with Irish in our call centre at all times. At the same time, for a number of different reasons, including people resigning and a high turnover of staff with Irish we were not able to provide this service on the day in question. The situation was rectified three days later when a new member of staff with Irish was recruited."* (Trans)

We were also informed that "this aspect of the service shall be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure needs are met." (Trans)

As a result of new statutory arrangements which came into effect during 2006 the driving test system no longer falls under the remit of the Department of Transport but under a newly-formed statutory body, the Road Safety Authority.

This new public body had not yet been brought under the remit of the Official Languages Act 2003 by the end of 2006 and as a result this Office would not have the authority to raise any language related issues with that organisation.

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#### Gan freagra

**Rinne duine as Baile Átha Cliath gearán le m'Oifig faoin easpa seirbhíse trí Ghaeilge i gcás a bhain le cúrsaí riaracháin i limistéar áitiúil ar leith d'Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte.**

Bhí an duine seo ag feidhmiú mar sheiceadóir uachta i gcás duine gaolmhar a bhásaigh agus ag iarraidh socruithe áirithe a dhéanamh i gcás cúrsaí probháide.

I nGaeilge a scríobh an gearánaí le ceisteanna ar leith chuig an oifig d'Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte a bhí i gceist an 15 Eanáir 2006.

Nuair nach bhfuarthas aon fhreagra tar éis trí mhí ghlaigh an gearánaí ar an oifig a bhí i gceist agus labhair i mBéarla. Mhaígh an gearánaí gur tuigeadh láithreach cé a bhí i gceist agus gur dúradh "go neamhbhalbh" nár freagraíodh a litir mar gur i nGaeilge a bhí sí. "Níl aon duine anseo a thuigeann Gaeilge" a mhaígh an gearánaí a dúradh leis.

Ó tharla gur tugadh le fios don ghearánaí gur de bharr gur i nGaeilge a bhí an litir nár freagraíodh í, tharraing m'Oifig an cheist anuas le Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte faoi Alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

Treoraíonn Alt 9(2) den Acht –

*"I gcás ina ndéanfaidh duine cumarsáid i dteanga oifigiúil le comhlacht poiblí, i scríbhinn nó leis an bpost leictreonach, freagróidh an comhlacht poiblí sa teanga chéanna."*

Ní éilíonn an mhír seo den Acht go mbeadh Gaeilge nó cumas chun déileáil le litreacha nó ríomhphoist trí Ghaeilge ag gach fostaí i ngach eagraíocht stáit ach go mbeadh córas forbartha i ngach ceann acu le cinntiú gur féidir cumarsáid scríofa trí Ghaeilge a fhreagairt sa teanga chéanna sin.

Mar fhreagra ar an ngearán ghabh Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte leithscéal ó chroí faoin moill i bhfreagairt na litreach agus dúradh go raibh an-díomá uirthi faoin mbealach ar caitheadh leis an ngearánaí. Dúradh gur eagraíocht an-mhór a bhí san Fheidhmeannacht agus go raibh go leor athruithe ag tarlú inti. Dearbhaíodh an 23 Meitheamh 2006 go raibh

#### No reply

**A person from Dublin made a complaint to my Office concerning the lack of services through Irish in a case that pertained to administrative issues in a local office of the Health Service Executive.**

This person was acting as an executor of a will in the case of a relative who had died and wanted to make certain arrangements in relation to matters of probate.

The complainant wrote in Irish with queries to the office of the Health Service Executive in question on the 15 January 2006.

When a response had not been received after three months the complainant called the office in question and spoke in English. The complainant claimed that the office readily indicated an awareness of the query but was told "bluntly" that the letter had not been answered as it was in Irish. "There is no one here who understands Irish," the complainant claims to have been told.

Since the complainant was informed that it was due to the letter being in Irish that no response had issued, my Office raised the matter with the Health Service Executive under Section 9(2) of the Official Languages Act.

Section 9(2) of the Act directs that –

*"Where a person communicates in writing or by electronic mail in an official language with a public body, the public body shall reply in the same language."*

This section of the Act does not require every employee in every state organisation to have Irish or the ability to personally deal with letters or emails in Irish but it does require the development of a system within each such organisation to ensure that written communications in Irish are replied to in the same language.

In response to the complaint, the Health Service Executive apologised sincerely for the delay in responding to the letter and said that they were very disappointed at the manner in which the complainant had been treated. It was also said that the HSE was a very large organisation within which many changes were underway. It was

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socrúithe déanta ceisteanna an ghearánaí a fhreagairt i nGaeilge.

Chuir m'óifig an t-eolas seo in iúl don ghearánaí agus glacadh leis.

Rinne an gearánaí teagmháil le m'óifig arís an 20 Lúnasa 2006 le rá nach raibh fós féin an tráth sin aon fhreagra faighte aige ar a chuid ceisteanna ó Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte.

Nuair a rinne m'Óifig teagmháil arís le Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte seoladh chugainn cóip den fhreagra i nGaeilge a bhí eisithe ag an bhFeidhmeannacht chuig an ngearánaí an 21 Meitheamh 2006 ach nár léir ar bhain sí ceann scríbe amach go dtí sin.

confirmed on the 23 June 2006 that arrangements had been made to answer the complainant's queries in Irish.

My Office informed the complainant of this and the explanation was accepted.

On the 20 August 2006 the complainant contacted my Office again to say that no response had yet been received to the original queries from the Health Service Executive.

When my Office contacted the Health Service Executive again we were sent a copy of the reply in Irish which had been issued by the Executive on the 21 June 2006 but which had apparently still not reached its destination.

#### Dréachtpleananna forbartha

**Rinneadh gearán le m'Óifig le linn na bliana 2006 nach raibh fáil i nGaeilge ar an leagan leasaithe den dréachtphlean forbartha nua a bhí á ullmhú ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall agus go raibh sé curtha ar fáil don phobal i mBéarla amháin.**

Tháinig roinnt gearán faoin ábhar céanna ó dhaoine aonair agus ó choiste agus ó chumainn a bhí ag feidhmiú i nGaeltacht Dhún na nGall.

Tugadh le tuiscint dom gur foilsíodh an chéad dréacht den phlean forbartha go comhuaineach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla mar a éilítear de réir Alt 10 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003.

Treoraíonn an t-alt sin do chomhlachtaí poiblí a thagann faoi scáth na reachtaíochta – Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall san áireamh – “aon doiciméad ina leagtar amach tograí beartais phoiblí” a fhoilsiú go comhuaineach i ngach ceann de na teangacha oifigiúla d'ainneoin aon achtacháin eile.

Tá sé ríshoiléir gur tograí beartais phoiblí faoi bhrí Alt 10(a) den Acht atá i gceist le dréachtphleananna forbartha na n-údarás áitiúil agus rinne an ionstraim reachtúil a thug tús feidhme don mhír seo (IR 32 de 2004) tagairt shonrach dóibh.

#### Draft development plans

**A complaint was made to my Office in 2006 that the amended draft development plan which was being prepared by Donegal County Council was not available in Irish and that it had been circulated to the public in English only.**

Several complaints on the same topic followed from individuals, committees and associations who were operating in the Donegal Gaeltacht.

I was led to understand that the first draft of the development plan had been published simultaneously in English and Irish as is required under section 10 of the Official Languages Act 2003.

This section directs public bodies that come under the scope of the legislation – including Donegal County Council – to publish “any document setting out public policy proposals” simultaneously in each of the official languages notwithstanding any other enactment.

It is very clear that draft plans developed by local authorities are considered public policy proposals in the context of section 10 (a) of the Act and the statutory instrument which brought this section into force clearly makes reference to them.



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Bhí an chéad dréacht den phlean curtha ar fáil go comhuaineach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na Gall agus a gcuid dualgas faoi Alt 10 den Acht comhlíonta go hiomlán acu.

Ba léir go gcaithfí leaganacha leasaithe den dréachtphean a chur ar fáil go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla freisin le teacht le forálacha na reachtaíochta.

Dá sárófaí an reachtaíocht anseo bheadh an baol ann go bhféadfadh ceisteanna tromchúiseacha a bheith ann ansin nó amach anseo faoi bhailíocht phean a dhéanfaí ar bhealach a bhí ag teacht salach ar an bpróiseas reachtúil atá leagtha síos sa dlí.

Dá mbrisfí slabhra na bailíochta in ullmhú phean reachtúil ba dheacair na himpleachtaí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith aige sin a thomhas go cruinn.

Ón eolas a fuair mé ó Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ba léir nach raibh aon amhras faoi thiomantas na Comhairle an dréachtphean a ullmhú de réir na bhforálacha reachtúla ar fad.

Chinntigh an Chomhairle dom go raibh cuid mhór aighneachtaí i nGaeilge faighte acu i dtaca leis an dréachtphean, gur pléadh leo sin, agus gur eagraíodh seisiúin eolais agus ceardlanna sa Ghaeltacht. Ach bhain foilsiú an leagain leasaithe den dréachtphean i mBéarla le srianta ama agus leis an méid aistriúcháin a bhí le déanamh ar théacsanna substaintiúla laistigh de theorainneacha dochta ama.

D'aimsigh an Chomhairle freagra a bhí, dar liom, ciallmhar agus stuama agus a chinntigh nach gcothófaí amhras faoi bhailíocht reachtúil na hoibre a bhí ar siúl acu. Chuir siad síneadh ama leis an tréimhse a mbeadh an dréachtphean leasaithe ar fáil le haghaidh an chomhairliúcháin phoiblí agus chinntigh siad go mbeadh an leagan Gaeilge agus an leagan Béarla ar fáil go comhuaineach le linn iomlán na tréimhse nua ama sin.

Thug an socrú seo deis do dhaoine aonair agus do choistí agus do chumann Ghaeltachta an dréachtphean leasaithe a scrúdú agus a phlé ina rogha teanga.

The first draft of the plan was made available by Donegal County Council in both English and Irish simultaneously in full compliance with their obligations under section 10 of the Act.

It is evident, however, that amended versions of this draft plan must also be made available simultaneously in both official languages to comply with the provisions of the legislation.

If the legislation was not complied with, there would be a danger that serious questions could be raised in the future concerning the validity of a plan not prepared in a manner which was consistent with statutory requirements.

If the chain of validity is broken in the preparation of statutory plans it would be difficult to assess the implications.

From the information I received from Donegal County Council it was clear that there was no doubt as to the resolve of the Council to prepare the draft development plan in keeping with all statutory provisions.

The Council confirmed to me that a number of submissions had been received in Irish concerning the draft plan, that these were dealt with, and that information sessions and workshops had been organized in the Donegal Gaeltacht. However the publication of the amended draft plan in English only was due to time constraints and the amount of translation required on sizeable texts within a tight timeframe.

In my opinion, the Council found a solution which was reasonable and sensible and which ensured there could be no doubt concerning the statutory validity of the work they were undertaking. They extended the period of time for which the amended draft plan would be available for public consultation and ensured the English and Irish language versions would be available simultaneously in this new timeframe.

This new arrangement gave individuals and Gaeltacht committees and associations the opportunity to examine and discuss the amended draft plan in their choice of language.



## ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

Creidim, áfach, go bhfuil ábhar machnaimh do na húdaráis chuí sa dearcadh a léirigh an Chomhairle Contae go bhfágann na srianta ama atá leagtha orthu faoin Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 deacrachtaí praiticiúla le sárú nuair a bhítear ag iarraidh go gcloítear freisin lena ndualgais reachtúla teanga agus le deimhniú nach mbeidh aon lúb ar lár i mbailíocht plean reachtúil dá leithéid.

I believe, however, that the appropriate authorities may wish to reflect on the view expressed by the County Council that the time limits imposed by the Planning and Development Act create practical difficulties that have to be overcome in order to ensure compliance with their statutory language obligations and at the same time ensure that there are no flaws in the validity of statutory plans of this type.

#### Léarscáileanna

**Rinneadh gearán le m'Óifig le linn na bliana i dtaca le neamhaird a bheith déanta i léarscáileanna áirithe nuafhoilsithe de chuid Shuirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann de leaganacha Gaeilge logainmneacha na mbailte.**

Mheas an gearánaí nár chóir imeallú a dhéanamh ar an nGaeilge ar an mbealach seo trí aitheantas a thabhairt do leaganacha Béarla na mbailte amháin i léarscáileanna oifigiúla a bheadh eisithe ag gníomhaireacht stáit.

Is san Acht um Shuirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann 2001 a leagtar amach feidhmeanna na gníomhaireachta stáit atá i gceist anseo ach leasaíonn Alt 34 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla an tAcht um Shuirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann 2001 tríd an méid seo a leanas a chur in ionad mhír (h) d'alt 4(2):

*"(h) logainmneacha agus gnéithe seanda sna taifid agus sna bunachair sonraí léarscáilíochta náisiúnta agus i dtaifid agus i mbunachair sonraí ghaolmhara a thaispeáint i nGaeilge nó i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla."*

Tugadh tús feidhme don fhoráil seo an 30 Deireadh Fómhair 2003 le I.R. Uimh 518 de 2003.

Fágann sin dualgas gur i nGaeilge nó go dátheangach (Gaeilge agus Béarla) is ceart logainmneacha agus gnéithe seanda a bheith tugtha ar léarscáileanna oifigiúla agus nach ceart leaganacha Béarla leo féin amháin a bheith i gceist feasta.

I bhfianaise na forála seo rinne m'Óifig teagmháil le Suirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann.

#### Maps

**A complaint was made to my Office during the year concerning the absence of the Irish language version of town placenames in certain newly published maps by Ordnance Survey Ireland.**

The complainant felt the Irish language should not be marginalised in this manner by giving recognition only to the English language versions of the towns in maps issued by this state agency.

The functions of the state agency in question are specified in the Ordnance Survey Ireland Act 2001. However article 34 of the Official Languages Act amends the Ordnance Survey Ireland Act 2001 by putting the following in the place of section (h) of Paragraph 4 (2):

*"(h) to depict placenames and ancient features in the national mapping and related records and databases in the Irish language or in the English and Irish languages."*

This provision was brought into force on the 30 October 2003 by S.I. Number 518 of 2003.

This requires that placenames and ancient features should be named in Irish or bilingually (Irish and English) on official maps and that English only versions may not be published.

In light of this provision my Office contacted Ordnance Survey Ireland.

## ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

Thug Suirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann mar mhíniú ar chás an ghearánaí gur foilseachán ar leith a bhí i gceist a bhí curtha ar fáil ar dtús ar bhonn píolótach agus go mbeifí ag brath ar aiseolas le cinneadh a dhéanamh ar cheart an foilseachán a áireamh i measc fhoilseacháin na heagraíochta.

Dheimhnigh Suirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann go mbeadh gach dualgas faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 á chomhlíonadh in aon leagan críochnúil den fhoilseachán sin agus i bhfoilseacháin eile na heagraíochta.

Ordnance Survey Ireland explained that in the case of the specific complaint the product was launched on a pilot basis and its inclusion in the organisation's product line would depend on public response and feedback.

Ordnance Survey Ireland confirmed that they would fulfil all obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 in any definitive version of the specific publication and in the organisation's future publications.

#### Pleanáil agus Forbairt

**Rinneadh gearán le m'Oifig thar ceann brúghrúpa a fheidhmíonn i réimse na pleanála sa Ghaeltacht faoin gcaoi a raibh Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe ag tabhairt feidhm phraiticiúil d'Alt 10(2) (m) den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000.**

Dúirt an gearánaí go raibh sé lánsásta leis na forálacha atá leagtha síos i bPlean Forbartha Chontae na Gaillimhe 2003-2009 chun cosaint a tabhairt d'oidhreacht teanga agus chultúir na Gaeltachta ach go raibh amhras air faoi chur i bhfeidhm praiticiúil na bhforálacha sin.

Dúradh go leagtar síos go hiondúil coinníoll nach gcuirfí tús le cibé forbairt atá i gceist gan conradh faoi Alt 47 den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 a bheith aontaithe ar dtús maidir le céatadán de thithe i scéimeanna a bheith coinnithe dóibh siúd le cumas sa Ghaeilge.

Mhaígh sé freisin go raibh forbairtí ag dul ar aghaidh gan an conradh faoi chúrsaí teanga faoi Alt 47 a bheith aontaithe agus thug sé sampla amháin ar leith inar mhaígh sé go raibh na foirgnimh a bhí i gceist á dtógáil cé gur leag an Bord Pleanála na coinníollacha síos go sonrach i mbreithiúnas a thug siad ar achomharc ar chead a dheonaigh Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe nach rachfaí i mbun na forbartha go dtí go mbeadh "coinníoll teanga" comhaontaithe sa chás áirithe seo.

Ba é bunbhrí an cháis ná go raibh neamhaird á déanamh ar an bhforáil sa chead pleanála a bhí údaraithe ag an mBord Pleanála gur gá conradh

#### Planning and Development

**A complaint was made to my Office on behalf of an action group, concerned with planning issues in the Gaeltacht, in relation to the implementation of section 10 (c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 by Galway County Council.**

The complainant said although he was satisfied with the provisions to protect the linguistic heritage and culture of the Gaeltacht outlined in the County Galway Development Plan 2003-2009, he was concerned with the actual implementation of this provision.

He suggested that a condition was usually attached to certain planning permissions which prohibited the commencement of development until a legal agreement had been made under section 47 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in relation to the percentage of houses in schemes reserved for those proficient in Irish.

He further suggested that certain developments had, however, been commenced without this agreement being in place under section 47. He gave a specific example in which he claimed buildings were under construction despite An Bord Pleanála having specifically laid down stipulations in an appeal judgment that prohibited the commencement of the development until such time as a "language clause" had been agreed in this case.

The fundamental issue was a disregard for one of the conditions of the planning permission authorised by An Bord Pleanála that a legal

## ACHOIMRE AR CHÁSANNA ROGHNAITHE

### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

dlíthiúil a bheith sínithe i leith chéatadán na dtithe nach ndíolfai ach le daoine le Gaeilge sula rachfaí i mbun na forbartha.

Thug an gearánaí le fios gur chreid sé gur bhain an cleachtas seo ligean d'fhorbairt dul chun cinn gan an Conradh cuí faoi chúrsaí teanga a bheith comhaontaithe an bonn ar fad den fhoráil sin den chead pleanála, den Phlean Forbartha Contae agus d'alt 10(20)(m) den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000.

Tá údarás ag m'Oifig imscrúdú a dhéanamh faoi Alt 21 (f) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla i gcás líomhaintí "nach raibh nó nach bhfuil aon fhoráil d'aon achtachán eile a bhaineann le stádas nó le húsáid teanga oifigiúla á comhlíonadh" agus tugtar mar shainmhíniú ar "achtachán" in Alt 2 (1) den Acht "reacht nó ionstraim ama déanamh faoi chumhacht a thugtar le reacht".

Baineann Alt 10(2) (m) den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 le stádas agus le húsáid na Gaeilge agus tá feidhm tugtha don fhoráil sin i bPlean Forbartha Chontae na Gaillimhe 2003-2009.

Ach ó tharla gur feidhmiú praiticiúil fhorálacha an Phlean Forbartha Contae agus ceadanna pleanála ar leith faoin bplean sin a bhí mar ábhar gearáin sa chás seo tuigeadh dom nach raibh údarás ag m'Oifig imscrúdú oifigiúil a dhéanamh sa chás seo.

Bheartaigh mé, áfach, gur cheart an Chomhairle Contae a chur ar an eolas faoi shubstaint an ghearáin le súil is go mbeadh spéis ag an gComhairle féin cúis an ghearáin a réiteach de réir "spiorad" na reachtaíochta.

Níor thug an Chomhairle aon léargas go raibh fonn orthu aon leasuithe a dhéanamh sa chás seo ach a rá go raibh Plean don Ghaeltacht á réiteach agus sa chomhthéacs sin "go mbreathnófar ar fheidhmiú na gcoinníollacha seo arís mar a dhéantar go leanúnach."

agreement be made in respect of the percentage of houses to be sold to Irish-speakers before development was commenced.

The complainant believed the practice of allowing development to proceed without the necessary language clause being agreed, completely undermined that condition in the planning permission, the County Development Plan generally and section 10(2)(m) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

My Office has the authority to carry out investigations under section 21(f) of the Official Languages Act in the case of allegations that "any provision of any other enactment relating to the status or use of an official language was not or is not being complied with" and enactment is defined in section 2(1) of the Act "a statute or an instrument made under a power conferred by a statute."

Section 10(2)(m) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 relates to the status and use of the Irish language and this provision is reflected in the provisions of the County Galway Development Plan 2003-2009.

As it was the practical implementation of provisions of the development plan and specific planning permission under this plan which was cause for complaint in this case, it appeared to me that my Office did not have statutory authority in this case to carry out an investigation.

I decided, however, that it would be proper to inform the County Council of the substance of this complaint in the hopes the Council would have an interest in resolving the issue under the "spirit" of the Act.

The Council did not give any impression it intended to make any amendments in this case but said that a Gaeltacht Plan was being prepared and that they would in that light "examine again the functioning of these conditions, as was done on a regular basis." (Trans).

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#### Daonáireamh 2006

**Ba bhliain daonáirimh a bhí in 2006 don Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh agus rinneadh roinnt gearán le m'Oifig le linn na bliana faoi fhadhbanna a bhí ag baill áirithe den phobal déileáil le cuid de na gnóthaí a bhain leis an daonáireamh trí Ghaeilge.**

Is ceart a rá go bhfeictear dom gur aithin an Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh gur cheart seirbhísí a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge agus thug siad le fios do m'Oifig go ndearna siad gach iarracht déileáil le daoine ina rogha teanga.

Le linn na bliana 2006 ní raibh scéim teanga faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 daingnithe ag an Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta a shaineodh na dualgais teanga ar leith a bheadh ar an Oifig sin (sa bheis ar dhualgais dhíreacha an Achta). Dá bhrí sin, is ar bhonn an chomhoibrithe a lorg agus a fuair m'Oifig cúnamh iomlán ón Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh le gearáin ón bpobal a réiteach.

Bhí teagmháil rialta ag m'Oifig le hoifigeach le Gaeilge de chuid na Príomh-Oifige Staidrimh a bhí ag obair ar an líne chabhrach le linn fheachtas an daonáirimh agus rinne an duine sin gach dícheall fadhbanna i dtaca le seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a leigheas go cuí agus go ciallmhar.

I measc na bpríomhdeacrachtaí bhí: leaganacha Béarla amháin den fhoirm daonáirimh a bheith scaipthe in áiteanna áirithe sa Ghaeltacht, gan tairiscint déanta ar leagan Gaeilge den fhoirm a sholáthar i gceantar Gaeltachta agus i gceantair lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht, gan leagan Gaeilge den fhoirm a bheith ag an áiritheoir nuair a iarradh é, moill a bheith ar an bhfoirm toisc go raibh leagan Gaeilge de dhíth agus, i roinnt cásanna, seoladh (nó baile fearainn) líonta isteach i mBéarla ar an bhfoirm roimh ré ag an áiritheoir.

Sa chomhfhreagras a bhí acu le m'Oifig tar éis an daonáirimh dúradh thar ceann na Príomh-Oifige Staidrimh an méid seo ag tagairt do ghéaráin anair:

*"Do b'fhearr liom muna dtarlódh na deacrachtaí a luaigh tú ach do tharla, in ainneoin ár*

#### Census 2006

**2006 was a census year for the Central Statistics Office and a number of complaints were made to my Office during the year in respect of difficulties certain members of the public had in dealing with matters related to the census through the medium of Irish.**

I should say that it would appear to me that the Central Statistics Office readily accepted that services should be provided in Irish and they advised my Office that they had made every effort to deal with people in their language of choice.

During the year 2006 there was no language scheme under the Official Languages Act 2003, confirmed by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in the case the Central Statistics Office which would specify the obligations on that Office in relation to the provision of services through Irish (additional to the direct provisions of the Act). As a result of that it was on the basis of cooperation that my Office sought and received every assistance from the Central Statistics Office to resolve complaints from the public.

My Office had regular contact with an Irish speaking official of the Central Statistics Office who was assigned to their Helpline during the census campaign. That official did his utmost to resolve all difficulties in relation to service through Irish in an appropriate and sensible manner.

Amongst the main difficulties were: English versions only of census forms distributed in some Gaeltacht areas, Irish version of the form not offered in Gaeltacht areas and in areas outside the Gaeltacht, enumerators who had not got an Irish version of the census form when it was requested, delays to the form because the Irish version was requested and in some cases, the address (or townland) filled in by the enumerator in advance in English.

In the correspondence, which took place with my Office after the census, the following was said on behalf of the Central Statistics Office in reference to one complaint:

*"I would prefer if the difficulties you mentioned had not arisen but they did despite our policies.*

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*bpolasaithe. Agus ní hé nár chuireamar béim ar cheist na Gaeilge le linn ár gcúrsaí traenála. Do dheineamar gach iarracht daoine le Gaeilge a fhostú sa Gaeltacht ach ní rabhadar ar fáil i gcónaí. Dá mbeidís, lufeadh sé le ciall go n-úsáidfimis iad."*

Maidir leis an nósmaireacht gan ach an leagan Béarla den fhoirm daonáirimh a thairiscint go gníomhach don phobal dúradh thar ceann na Príomh-Oifige Staidrimh go raibh dualgas ar na háiritheoirí leagan Gaeilge agus Béarla a bheith ar iompar leo agus go raibh rogha ag ceann an teaghlaigh pé leagan den fhoirm a bhí uaidh nó uaithi a lorg.

Maidir leis an gcoincheap go ndéanfaí tairiscint ghníomhach i gcónaí le go dtuigfeadh gach duine go fírinneach go raibh rogha dháiríre acu idir leagan i nGaeilge nó i mBéarla, dúirt an Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh nár dhóigh "go mbeadh sé sin praiticiúil ar chor ar bith ar bhonn na n-uimhreacha."

*And it wasn't that we hadn't stressed the question of Irish during our training courses. We made every effort to employ Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht but they were not always available. If they were, it would stand to reason that we would use them."* (Trans)

As regards the practice of only actively offering the English version of the census form to the public it was said on behalf of the Central Statistics Office that the enumerators were obliged to carry both the Irish and English versions of the form and that the head of the household had the choice as to which version of the form they required.

As regards the concept that an active offer would always be made so that everybody would understand that they had a real choice between the Irish and English versions the Central Statistics Office said that they didn't think that "it would be at all practical based on the numbers." (Trans)

#### Comharthaí bóthair

**Leanadh le linn na bliana 2006 le patrún seanbhunaithe de ghearáin chun m'Oifige maidir le fadhbanna le húsáid na Gaeilge ar chomharthaí bóthair éagsúla ar fud na tíre. Bhain formhór na ngearán sin le comharthaí le botúin i leaganacha Gaeilge na logainmneacha nó le comharthaí i mBéarla amháin.**

Tá an polasaí stáit maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge ar chomharthaí bóthair na tíre seo ar cheann de na siombailí poiblí is sofheicthe de thacaíocht d'úsáid na teanga anseo.

Níl údarás oifigiúil ag m'Oifig déileáil le gearáin a bhaineann le húsáid na Gaeilge ar chomharthaí bóthair (ach i gcásanna a bhaineann le logainmneacha Gaeltachta) de bharr struchtúr na reachtaíochta a rialaíonn an t-ábhar seo.

Thagair mé don cheist seo i dTuarascáil Tionscnaimh na hOifige (2004).

Bheadh údarás ag an Oifig seo imscrúdú oifigiúil a dhéanamh i gcás nach raibh údarás áitiúil ag cloí le hachtachán a bhaineann le stádas nó le húsáid na Gaeilge.

#### Road Signs

**The established pattern of complaints to my Office in relation to the use of Irish on various road signs throughout the country continued in 2006. Most of the complaints related to errors in the Irish versions of placenames or to signs in English only.**

The policy of the state in relation to the use of Irish on road signs is one of the most visible public manifestations of the state's support for the language.

My Office does not have statutory authority to deal officially with complaints in relation to the use of Irish on road signs (apart from those with Gaeltacht placenames) as a result of the structure of the legislation that regulates this matter.

I referred to this issue in the Inaugural Report of the Office (2004).

This Office would have the authority to conduct an official investigation in a situation where a local authority was not complying with an enactment in regard to the status or use of Irish.



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### SUMMARY OF SELECTED CASES

Ach ní achtachán (Reacht nó Ionstraim Reachtúil) atá mar bhunús dlíthiúil ag na comharthaí bóthair.

Ciorclán agus lámhleabhar ("Traffic Signs Manual") a foilsíodh i 1996 mar ordúcháin ghinearálta faoin Acht um Thrácht ar Bhóithre 1961 a leag amach treoir chuimsitheach na Roinne Comhshaoil i leith na gcomharthaí bóthair. Faoi stiúir na Roinne Iompair atá an gnó seo anois.

Déanann m'Oifig teagmháil go rialta de réir "spiorad" na reachtaíochta le húdaráis áitiúla i dtaca le gearáin faoi úsáid na Gaeilge ar a gcuid comharthaíochta agus meabhraítear na dualgais teanga atá orthu de réir chiorclán agus lámhleabhar na Roinne, ach ní féidir linn aon chéimeanna oifigiúla eile a thógáil ach a gcomhoibriú a lorg le déileáil le gearáin an phobail.

Ina measc siúd a rinne teagmháil liom faoin gceist seo le linn na bliana bhí iriseoir a d'eagraigh comórtas i gcomhar le stáisiún raidió áitiúil do na samplaí is measa de bhotúin Ghaeilge ar chomharthaí poiblí. Seoladh líon an-mhór samplaí de bhotúin chuige in achar gairid agus ceapadh gurb é an sampla ba mheasa ná comhartha bóthair poiblí a thug "GarNimh" in áit "Gaillimh" mar leagan Gaeilge ar "Galway".

Le linn na bliana léirigh cuid mhór údaráis áitiúla agus an tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta dearcadh an-dearfach i gcuid mhaith cásanna maidir leis na céimeanna cuí a thógáil le botúin bhunúsacha a cheartú nuair a rinne m'Oifig teagmháil leo. Ach is léir gur fadhb leanúnach agus fhorleathan í seo nach dócha gur féidir í a réiteach go sásúil gan iniúchadh náisiúnta aon uaire, clár ceartúcháin le botúin ar chomharthaíocht bhóthair na tíre a chealú go hiomlán agus córas foirfe le cinntiú nach n-údaráítear comharthaí nua a chrochadh gan a gcruinneas a dhearbhu.

However, the legal basis for the use of Irish on road signage is not governed by an enactment (Act or Statutory Instrument).



Circulars and a manual ("Traffic Signs Manual") published in 1996 as a general order under the Road Traffic Act 1961, provided local authorities with comprehensive guidance from the Department of the Environment in relation to road signs. This matter is now under the direction of the Department of Transport.

This Office regularly contacts local authorities under the "spirit" of the legislation in relation to complaints about the use of Irish in their signs and reminds them of their language duties under the Department's circulars and manual but we cannot take any other official step and can only seek their cooperation in tackling complaints from the public.

Among those who contacted me about this matter during the past year was a journalist who organised a competition in conjunction with a local radio station to find the worst examples of errors in Irish on road signs. Within a short period, he was sent many example of errors, perhaps the worst of which was a road sign that gave "GarNimh" in place of "Gaillimh" as the Irish version of "Galway".

During the year most local authorities and the National Roads Authority displayed a very positive attitude in many instances with regard to the taking of appropriate steps to correct basic Irish language errors, when contacted by my Office. However it is obvious that this is a continuing and widespread problem which probably cannot be solved satisfactorily without a once off national audit, a correction programme to completely eliminate errors on road signs throughout the country and the establishment of an effective system to ensure the erection of new signs is not authorised until their accuracy has been verified.

## CÚRSAÍ AIRGEADAIS

### FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bhí buiséad €731,000 curtha ar fáil don Oifig don bhliain 2006. Tá cuntais na hOifige curtha faoi bhráid an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste lena n-iniúchadh de réir Alt 8(2) den Dara Sceideal d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003.

A luaithe agus is féidir tar éis an iniúchta, déanfaidh an Coimisinéir Teanga cóip de na cuntais sin, nó de cibé sleachta as na cuntais sin a shonróidh an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, mar aon le tuarascáil an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste maidir leis na cuntais, a chur i láthair an Aire. Beidh cóipeanna de na doiciméid sin á leagan faoi bhráid gach ceann de Thithe an Oireachtais. Foilseofar freisin iad ar shuíomh gréasáin na hOifige.

A budget of €731,000 was provided for the Office for the year 2006. The accounts of the Office have been submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit in accordance with Section 8(2) of the Second Schedule of the Official Languages Act 2003.







As soon as may be after the audit, a copy of those accounts, or of such extracts from those accounts as the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs may specify, together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the accounts, shall be presented to the Minister. Copies of the documents shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas. They will be published also on the Office's website..

# FOIREANN AGUS SONRAÍ TEAGMHÁLA

## STAFF AND CONTACT DETAILS

### Foireann

### Staff

 <p><b>Seán Ó Cuirreáin</b></p> <p>An Coimisinéir Teanga</p>	 <p><b>Damhnait Uí Mhaoldúin</b></p> <p>Bainisteoir Oifige / Office Manager</p>	 <p><b>Órla de Búrca</b></p> <p>Ardoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin / Higher Executive Officer</p>
 <p><b>Cáit Uí Mhaoilríain</b></p> <p>Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin / Executive Officer</p>	 <p><b>Ciarán Ó Ráighne</b></p> <p>Oifigeach Cléireachais / Clerical Officer</p>	 <p><b>Laura Pathe</b></p> <p>Oifigeach Cléireachais / Clerical Officer</p>

### Teagmháil

Is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an Oifig tríd an bpost, ar facs, le ríomhphost nó ar an teiléafón ar chostas Glao Áitiúil, mar seo a leanas:

### Contact details

Contact can be made with this Office by post, fax, email or telephone at the cost of a local call, as follows:

**POST:**     **An Coimisinéir Teanga**  
 An Spidéal  
 Co. na Gaillimhe  
 Éire

**POST:**     **An Coimisinéir Teanga**  
 An Spidéal  
 Co. Galway  
 Ireland

FÓN .....	091-504 006 .....	PHONE
GLAO ÁITIÚIL .....	1890-504 006 .....	Lo-Call
FACS .....	091-504 036 .....	FAX
RÍOMHPHOST .....	eolas@coimisineir.ie .....	EMAIL
SUÍOMH GRÉASÁIN .....	www.coimisineir.ie .....	WEBSITE







Dearadh/Design: [www.jdkdesign.net](http://www.jdkdesign.net) Teil/Tel: 071 9120905



## An Coimisinéir Teanga



An Coimisinéir Teanga  
An Spidéal  
Co. na Gaillimhe  
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