



TUARASCÁIL FAIREACHÁIN

---

MONITORING REPORT

2018



## CLÁR | CONTENTS

Réamhrá <i>Preface</i> .....	4
An Lín Foirne le hInniúlacht sa Ghaeilge i Ranna Rialtais <i>Staff Numbers in Government Departments Competent in Irish</i> .....	6
Suíomhanna Gréasáin na nÚdarás Áitiúil <i>Local Authorities' Websites</i> .....	16
Comharthaíocht ag Suíomhanna Oidhreachta <i>Signage at Heritage Sites</i> .....	23
Aguisíní <i>Appendices</i> .....	32

# RÉAMHRÁ

Is í seo an chéad Tuarascáil Faireacháin dá leithéid a d'fhoilsigh Oifig an Choimisiúna Teanga ó bunaíodh í. Chinn mé tuarascáil a fhoilsíú ar obair faireacháin na hOifige chun go dtabharfaí cuntas níos iomláíne faoi leith ar an obair a cuireadh i gcrích sa réimse seo le linn na bliana 2018 agus ar na torthaí a tháinig chun cinn dá bharr. Sna blianta roimhe seo bhí gearrchuntas le fáil ar an obair faireacháin i dTuarascáil Bhliantúil na hOifige.

Ní cheadaítear dom ach faireachán a dhéanamh ar phorálacha a bhaineann le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Creidim go dtugann an t-athbhreithniú atáthar a dhéanamh ar an Acht faoi láthair deis dúinn féachaint ar na cúramí faireacháin sin agus iad a threisiú. Fágann an staid reatha nach bhfuil ar mo chumas faireachán réamhghníomhach a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm aon phorálacha a bhaineann le stádas ná úsáid teanga oifigiúla atá in aon achtachán eile amhail an tAcht Oideachais, 1998, an tAcht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000 agus an tAcht Craolacháin, 2009. Go deimhin, tá réimse leathan reachtaíochta ann ina bhfuil forálacha maidir le húsáid na dteangacha oifigiúla agus creidim go mbeadh sé tairbheach cumhacht a bheith ag an Oifig seo cur i bhfeidhm na bhforálacha sin a iniúchadh. Is i bhfoirm imscrúduithe amháin is féidir liom aon neamh-chomhlíonadh a líomhnaítear a fhiosrú i láthair na huairé.

Tá tábhacht faoi leith leis an obair faireacháin a dhéanann m' Oifig ó tharla go dtugann sé deis dúinn tosaíochtaí monatóireachta dár gcuid féin a shocrú. Sna blianta a chuaigh thart dírodh cuid mhaith d'obair faireacháin na hOifige ar monatóireachta a dhéanamh ar chóras na scéimeanna teanga. Bhí ciall leis an gcur chuige sin de bharr gurbh iad na scéimeanna teanga an phríomh-mheicníocht a bhí in úsáid sa reachtaíocht chun dualgas a leagan ar chomhlacthaí poiblí réimse seirbhísí a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge. Bhí sé riachtanach mar sin iniúchadh rialta a dhéanamh ar an gcaoi a raibh ag éirí le comhlacthaí poiblí na gealltanais a bhí tugtha acu ina scéimeanna teanga a chur i bhfeidhm.

Le linn dúinn a bheith ag tabhairt faoin obair faireacháin sin ba léir dúinn nach raibh córas na scéimeanna teanga ag baint amach na gcuspóirí a bhí luaite leis. Sa bhliain 2017 d'fhoilsigh mé tráchtairreacht ar fheidhmiú chóras na scéimeanna teanga a fhoilsíú i gcomhréir leis na cumhactaí atá agam faoi Alt 29 den Acht<sup>1</sup>. Ceadaíonn an tAcht don Choimisiúna Teanga tráchtairreacht a eisíúint ar fheidhm phraiticiúil agus ar oibriú phorálacha an Achta. Ba í seo an dara tráchtairreacht a foilsíodh ó bunaíodh an Oifig. Tugadh cuntas fianaisebhunaithe sa tráchtairreacht sin ar réimse lochtanna a bhain le feidhmiú chóras na scéimeanna teanga. I bhfianaise an méid a léiríodh sa tráchtairreacht

## PREFACE

This is the first Monitoring Report of this kind published by the Office of An Coimisiún Teanga since its establishment. I decided to publish a separate report on the monitoring work of this Office in order to provide a separate detailed account of the monitoring work completed in this area during 2018 and the results that ensued. In previous years, an account of the monitoring work was contained in the Annual Report of the Office.

I am permitted to monitor only the provisions of the Official Languages Act. I believe that the current review of the Act gives us the opportunity to look at those monitoring functions and to strengthen them. The current situation is such that I don't have the authority to proactively monitor the implementation of provisions in any other enactment relating to the use or status of the Irish language, such as the Education Act 1998, the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Broadcasting Act 2009. In fact, there is a wide range of legislation with provisions relating to the use of the official languages and I believe that it would be beneficial for my Office to have the power to monitor the implementation of those provisions. Currently, the only mechanism available to me to inquire into any alleged non-compliance is a formal investigation.

The monitoring work undertaken by my Office is of particular importance as it allows us to set our own monitoring priorities. In previous years, most of the monitoring work of the Office focused on the monitoring of the language scheme system. This was a sensible approach as the language schemes were the primary mechanism used in the legislation to place an obligation on public bodies to provide a range of services in Irish. Therefore, it was necessary to carry out regular audits on the progress made by public bodies in implementing the commitments given in their language scheme.

In undertaking that monitoring work it was clear to us that the language scheme system was not achieving its stated objectives. In 2017 I published a commentary on the functioning of the language scheme system in accordance with the powers given to me under Section 29 of the Act<sup>1</sup>. The Act allows An Coimisiún Teanga to publish a commentary on the practical functioning and operation of the provisions of the Act. This was the second commentary published since the Office was established. An evidence-based account was outlined in that commentary on a range of faults relating to the system of language schemes. In light of what was demonstrated in the commentary I

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.coimisiuneir.ie/trachtaireacht?lang=GA>

chinn mé an próiseas faireacháin a bhí á fheidhmiú ag an Oifig a athrú agus níos mó d'acmhainní na hOifige a dhíriú i dtreo réimsí eile faireacháin seachas a bheith dírithe go príomha ar chóras na scéimeanna teanga.

Cuireadh túis le córas nua faireacháin na hOifige i lár na bliana 2018. Tugtar cuntas sa tuarascáil seo ar an obair a cuireadh i gcrích i leith na réimsí oibre seo a leanas a aithníodh mar thosaíochtaí faireacháin don bhliain 2018:

- An líon foirne le hinniúlacht sa Ghaeilge i ranna rialtais
- Suíomhanna gréasáin na n-údarás áitiúil
- Úsáid na dteangacha oifigiúla ar chomharthaíocht ag suíomhanna oidhreachta

Tá sé beartaithe leanúint leis an múnla faireacháin seo sna blianta amach romhainn agus tá síul againn cur leis an obair de réir a chéile.

Rónán Ó Domhnaill  
An Coimisinéir Teanga

decided to change the monitoring process of the Office and to focus more of its capacity on other monitoring work rather than monitoring based primarily on the language scheme system.

Since mid-2018, a new monitoring system has been introduced. This report provides an account of the work undertaken, focusing mainly on the following areas identified as the monitoring priorities for 2018:

- Staff numbers in government departments competent in Irish
- Local authorities' websites
- Use of the official languages on signage at heritage sites

It is intended to continue with this monitoring system in the years ahead and we hope to gradually increase the scope of the work.

Rónán Ó Domhnaill  
An Coimisinéir Teanga



# AN LÍON FOIRNE LE HINNIÚLACHT SA GHAEILGE I RANNA RIALTAIS

## Achoimre

San iniúchadh seo scrúdaíodh an acmhainn fairne atá ag ranna rialtais chun cur ar a gcumas na gealltanais atá tugtha ina scéim teanga a chur i bhfeidhm. Le linn do chomhlachtaí poiblí a bheith ag ullmhú scéim teanga éilitéar i bhforálacha an Acharta<sup>2</sup> gur cheart dóibh a chinntíú go bhfuil líon leordhóthanach fairne ar fáil dóibh le hinniúlacht sa Gaeilge chun seirbhísí a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge chomh maith lena soláthar trí Bhéarla. Tar éis don Aire scéim teanga a dhaingniú tá de dhualgas ar an gcomhlacht poiblí an scéim sin a chur i gcríoch.

Bhí de chuspóir ag an iniúchadh seo scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an líon fairne le hinniúlacht sa Ghaeilge a bhí fostaithe ag aicme faoi leith de chomhlachtaí poiblí, is é sin ranna rialtais. Léiríodh i dtorthaí an iniúchta go bhfuil an líon fairne le Gaeilge atá ag obair i ranna rialtais fíoríseal. Tráth an iniúchta ní raibh ach 550 duine as 21,000 fostá a bhí aitheanta mar fhoireann le hinniúlacht sa Ghaeilge. Tá an líon seo faoi bhun 3% d'fhoireann na ranna rialtais a scrúdaíodh.

Chun gur féidir réimse sásúil seirbhísí a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge luíonn sé le réasún, ar ndóigh, gur gá go mbeadh dóthain fairne le Gaeilge ag obair sna comhlachtaí poiblí éagsúla. Tá an méid sin aitheanta in Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus freisin sa Straitéis 20 Blíain don Ghaeilge<sup>3</sup> ina dtagraítear don ghá go mbeadh poist lena mbainfeadh riachtanas Gaeilge aitheanta i scéimeanna teanga. San earnáil stáit is fíor go mbíonn roinnt comhlachtaí poiblí dírithe ar sheirbhísí a sholáthar go díreach don phobal agus cinn eile a bhíonn dírithe níos mó ar fhorbairt beartais.

Ag túis na bliana 2017 bhí scéim teanga daingnithe ag an Aire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta le gach roinn rialtais ach amháin an Roinn Forbartha Tuithe agus Pobail. Bunaíodh an Roinn sin i mí Iúil na bliana 2017 agus ní raibh aon iarratas déanta ag an Aire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta uirthi scéim teanga a ullmhú faoi dheireadh na bliana 2017. D'fhág sin go raibh 16 scéim teanga daingnithe le ranna rialtais faoi dheireadh na bliana 2017.

Mar a bheiff ag súil leis, bhí ranna rialtais ar cheann de na chéad aicmí de chomhlachtaí poiblí ar aontaíodh scéimeanna teanga leo agus mar sin tá roinnt síombhail ag feidhmiú scéimeanna teanga le roinnt mhaithe blianta.

## NUMBER OF STAFF IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITH COMPETENCE IN IRISH

### Summary

This audit examined the staff capacity available to government departments to allow them to implement the commitments in their language schemes. When preparing their language schemes public bodies are required by the provisions of the Act<sup>2</sup> to ensure that they have enough staff with competence in Irish to provide services in Irish as well as in English. Once the Minister has agreed the language scheme there is an onus on the public body to implement that scheme.

The object of this audit was to examine the number of staff with competence in Irish employed by a particular sector of public bodies, namely, government departments. The results of the audit indicated that the number of personnel with Irish employed by government departments is very low. At the time of the audit only 550 personnel from a total of 21,000 were recognised as staff with competence in Irish. This figure is less than 3% of the staff in the government departments examined.

The ability to deliver an acceptable range of services in Irish is, of course, dependent on having sufficient numbers of staff with Irish working in the various public bodies. This much is recognised in both the Official Languages Act and the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language<sup>3</sup> where the requirement to identify designated posts with competence in Irish is stated in language schemes. In the public sector some public bodies are involved in providing services directly to the public whilst others are primarily concerned with policy development.

At the beginning of 2017 the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht had agreed a language scheme with every government department except the Department of Rural and Community Development. That Department was established in July 2017 and the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht had not requested it to prepare a scheme by the end of 2017. This meant that 16 language schemes were agreed with government departments by the end of 2017.

As would be expected, government departments were one of the first classes of public bodies to have language schemes agreed with them and as a result some of them are now operating language schemes for many years.

<sup>2</sup> Fo-alt 13(2)(c) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 | Subsection 13(2)(c) of the Official Languages Act 2003

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.chg.gov.ie/ga/gaeltacht/20-year-strategy-for-the-irish-language-2010-2030/>

Léirítear sa tábla thíos, "Ranna Rialtais le Scéim Teanga", na ranna rialtais a raibh scéim teanga reatha daingnithe ag an Aire leo tráth an iniúchta ag deireadh mhí na Bealtaine 2018. Tugtar cuntas freisin ar an dáta ar tháinig an chéad scéim teanga de na ranna rialtais i bhfeidhm agus an dáta ar aontaíodh an scéim teanga is deireanaí. Is iad seo na ranna rialtais ab ábhar don iniúchadh.

The table below, "Government Departments with a Language Scheme", shows the government departments that had an agreed language scheme at the time of the audit at the end of May 2018. Also indicated are the date on which the first language scheme was agreed and the date on which the current language scheme was agreed. The following are the government departments that were audited.

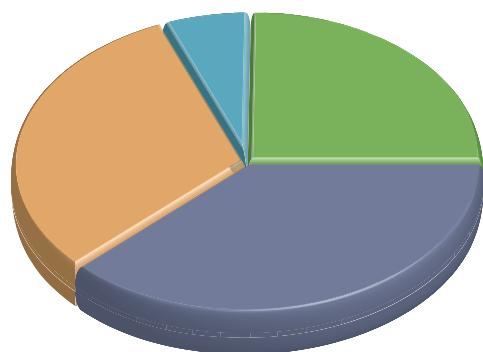
**Tábla 1: Ranna Rialtais le Scéim Teanga | Table 1: Government Departments with a Language Scheme**

Ainm na Roinne Name of the Department	Scéim teanga reatha Current language scheme	Dáta ar tháinig an scéim teanga reatha i bhfeidhm Date on which the current language scheme came into operation	Dáta ar tháinig an chéad scéim teanga i bhfeidhm Date on which the first language scheme came into operation
An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil <i>Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government</i>	Scéim 4 Scheme 4	13/03/2017	15/08/2005
Roinn an Taoisigh <i>Department of the Taoiseach</i>	Scéim 3 Scheme 3	26/02/2016	01/09/2005
An Roinn Airgeadais <i>Department of Finance</i>	Scéim 3 Scheme 3	26/02/2018	01/02/2006
An Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaíthe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil <i>Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment</i>	Scéim 3 Scheme 3	28/05/2018	02/10/2006
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna <i>Department of Education and Skills</i>	Scéim 3 Scheme 3	24/10/2016	01/12/2005
An Roinn Cosanta <i>Department of Defence</i>	Scéim 3 Scheme 3	03/03/2014	26/02/2007
An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí <i>Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection</i>	Scéim 2 Scheme 2	16/03/2015	01/06/2007
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara <i>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine</i>	Scéim 2 Scheme 2	24/10/2016	01/06/2006
An Roinn Sláinte <i>Department of Health</i>	Scéim 2 Scheme 2	02/02/2015	15/12/2009
An Roinn lompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt <i>Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</i>	Scéim 2 Scheme 2	02/02/2018	30/04/2007
An Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta <i>Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation</i>	Scéim 2 Scheme 2	28/09/2015	25/10/2010
An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta <i>Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</i>	Scéim 2 Scheme 2	12/05/2016	01/05/2012
An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe <i>Department of Public Expenditure and Reform</i>	Scéim 1 Scheme 1	21/10/2015	21/10/2015
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála <i>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</i>	Scéim 1 Scheme 1	01/12/2006	01/12/2006
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais <i>Department of Justice and Equality</i>	Scéim 1 Scheme 1	01/06/2006	01/06/2006
An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige <i>Department of Children and Youth Affairs</i>	Scéim 1 Scheme 1	14/10/2013	14/10/2013



Ar ndóigh, tháinig athrú ar ainmneacha agus ar chomhdhéanamh ranna rialtais áirithe in imeacht na mblianta agus tá an méid sin áirithe sa tábla. Tá sé le tabhairt faoi deara go raibh ar a laghad an dara scéim teanga daingnithe ag formhór na ranna rialtais faoi dheireadh mhí na Bealtaine 2018. Bhí dhá roinn rialtais – an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála, agus an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais – nach raibh aon scéim teanga daingnithe leo ón tráth ar aontaíodh an chéad cheann sa bliain 2006.

### **Scéimeanna Teanga daingnithe le Ranna Rialtais, 31/5/2018** **Language Schemes agreed with Government Departments, 31/5/2018**



An Chéad Scéim Teanga First Language Scheme	25%
An Dara Scéim Teanga Second Language Scheme	38%
An Triú Scéim Teanga Third Language Scheme	31%
An Ceathrú Scéim Teanga Fourth Language Scheme	6%

### **An Mhodheolaíocht Iníúchta**

I mí lúil na bliana 2018 seoladh litir chuig Ard-Rúnaí gach roinn rialtais inar sonraíodh an t-iniúchadh a bhí á dhéanamh ag an Oifig chun teacht ar thuairim an raibh líon leordhóthanach foirne le hinniúlacht sa Ghaeilge ag ranna rialtais chun na gealltanais a bhí tugtha sna scéimeanna teanga a chomhlíonadh. Iarradh ar na ranna rialtais eolas a thabhairt maidir leis na nithe seo a leanas:

1. an líon iomlán foirne a bhí fostaithe sa roinn ar an 31 Bealtaine 2018
2. an líon iomlán foirne a bhí inniúil ar ghnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge ar an 31 Bealtaine 2018
3. an mhodheolaíocht a úsáidtear chun an leibhéal inniúlachta sa Ghaeilge a mheas
4. an líon post a bhí sainaitheanta ag an roinn mar chinn lenar bhain riachtanas Gaeilge
5. an líon foirne a earcaíodh le linn na bliana 2017
6. an líon post lenar bhain riachtanas Gaeilge agus a earcaíodh le linn 2017

Over the years the names and composition of government departments have changed and this is taken into account in the table. It is significant that most government departments had agreed at least a second language scheme by the end of May 2018. Two government departments – the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Department of Justice and Equality – had not agreed a language scheme since the first one was agreed in 2006.

### **Audit Methodology**

In July 2018 a letter was issued to the Secretary General of every government department providing details of the audit being conducted by the Office to form a view of whether government departments had a sufficient number of staff to implement the commitments provided in their language schemes. Government departments were asked to provide the following information:

1. the total number of staff employed in the department at 31 May 2018
2. the total number of staff competent to conduct their business in Irish at 31 May 2018
3. the methodology used to assess the level of competence in Irish
4. the number of posts designated by the department as ones that had an Irish language requirement
5. the number of staff recruited during 2017
6. the number of posts that had an Irish language requirement and that were recruited in 2017

Thug gach roinn rialtais freagra ar an iarratas agus is mór againn an comhoibriú a cuireadh ar fáil dúinn.

Mar chuid den obair iniúchta scrúdaíomar na gealltanais atá tugtha ag na ranna rialtais ina scéim teanga idir sholáthar seirbhísí agus mhodhanna cumarsáide leis an bpobal agus lena gcuid custaiméirí.

## Príomhthorthaí

### An lín foirne atá inniúil ar ghnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge

Léiríonn torthaí an iniúchta gur fforíseal atá an lín foirne le Gaeilge atá fostaithe ag ranna rialtais. De réir an eolais a cuireadh ar fáil dúinn bhí 21,060 duine fostaithe ag ranna rialtais ag deireadh mhí na Bealtaine 2018. Bhí 551 (2.62%) acu sin aitheanta mar fhostaithe a bhí inniúil ar ghnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge. Ba ag an Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí a bhí an lín ab airde foirne le hinniúlacht sa Ghaeilge, 190, ach ba ag an Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta a bhí an céadán ab airde d'fhostaithe le hinniúlacht sa Ghaeilge (11.43%).

As na 16 roinn rialtais a scrúdaíodh bhí 9 acu ag a raibh céatadán foirne le hinniúlacht sa Ghaeilge ag ráta níos lú ná 2%. Ní raibh ach dhá roinn rialtais, an Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta, agus an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, a raibh níos mó ná 5% den fhoireann inniúil sa Ghaeilge.

Tugtar léargas i dTábla 2 thíos ar lín ionlán na bhfostaithe de réir ranna rialtais agus an lín a bhí aitheanta le seirbhísí a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge.

Every government department responded to our request and we greatly appreciate the cooperation we received.

As part of the audit work we examined the commitments provided by government departments in their language scheme encompassing the supply of services and methods of communications with the public and their customers.

## Main Results

### The number of staff with the ability to conduct business through Irish

The results of the audit demonstrate that government departments have employed a very low number of staff with Irish. Based on the information provided to us government departments had employed 21,060 at the end of May 2018. 551 (2.62%) of those were recognised as employees with the ability to conduct business through Irish. The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection had the highest number of staff with competence in Irish, 190, but the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht had the highest percentage of employees with competence in Irish (11.43%).

Of the 16 government departments examined 9 had a percentage of staff with competence in Irish of less than 2%. Only two government departments, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and the Department of Education and Skills, had more than 5% of staff with competence in Irish.

Table 2 indicates the total number of staff by government department and the number recognised as being able to provide services in Irish.



Tábla 2: An líon foirne atá inniúil ar ghnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge

Table 2: Number of staff competent to provide services in Irish

Ainm na Roinne Name of the Department	Líon iomlán foirne Total number of staff	Foireann le hinniúlacht sa Ghaeilge Staff with competence in Irish	%
An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil   Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	708	10	1.41%
Roinn an Taoisigh   Department of the Taoiseach	209	7	3.35%
An Roinn Airgeadais   Department of Finance	331	4	1.21%
An Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil   Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment	399	4	1.00%
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna*   Department of Education and Skills*	1,294	88	6.80%
An Roinn Cosanta   Department of Defence	351	6	1.71%
An Roinn Gnóthai Fostaiochta agus Coimirce Sóisialai   Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	6,853	190	2.77%
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara   Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	3,323	14	0.42%
An Roinn Sláinte   Department of Health	492	12	2.44%
An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spórt   Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	537	14	2.61%
An Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta   Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation	890	14	1.57%
An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta   Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	665	76	11.43%
An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe   Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	443	5	1.13%
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála   Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	1,884	56	2.97%
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais   Department of Justice and Equality	2,412	47	1.95%
An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige   Department of Children and Youth Affairs	269	4	1.49%
<b>Iomlán   Total</b>	<b>21,060</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>2.62%</b>

\*Bunaithe ar shuirbhé a rinneadh in 2017. \*Based on a survey conducted in 2017.



## Poist lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge

As na 16 roinn rialtais a scrúdaíodh tá poist le riachtanas Gaeilge sainaitheanta ag naoi gcinn acu. Ar an iomlán is 84 post as an 19,766 a bhí sainaitheanta ag na ranna rialtais ar fad mar phoist lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge. Is ionann sin agus 0.4%. Tá sé suntasach freisin go bhfuil an líon seo i bhfad faoi bhun na 551 duine le Gaeilge atá foistaithe ag ranna rialtais.

Cé is moite den Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta, a raibh 10% dá cuid post aitheanta mar chinn lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge, ní raibh aon roinn rialtais eile a shroich céatadán 1% nó níos airde.

Is léir ón analís seo nach bhfuil ach roinnt de na ranna rialtais ag tabhairt aird ar an moladh a rinneadh sa Straitéis 20 Blíain don Ghaeilge, 2010-2030 go ndéanfaí sainaithint ar phoist le riachtanas Gaeilge sna scéimeanna teanga. I gcás na ranna rialtais atá ag sainaithint poist lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge is líon íseal nó ag leibhéal iosta go maith atá sé ag tarlú.

## Positions with an Irish language requirement

Of the 16 government departments examined nine have designated positions with an Irish language requirement. In total, 84 positions out of 19,766 have been designated by government departments as positions with an Irish language requirement. That equates to 0.4%. It is also significant that this number is well below the 551 persons with Irish employed by government departments.

Other than the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, which had 10% of its positions recognised as having an Irish language requirement, no other government department reached a percentage of 1% or higher.

It can be concluded from this analysis that only some of the government departments are paying any regard to the recommendation in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language, 2010-2030 that positions with an Irish language requirement be identified in language schemes. Government departments that are recognising positions with an Irish language requirement are only doing so for small or relatively small number of positions.

**Tábla 3: Poist lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge | Table 3: Positions with an Irish language requirement**

Ainm na Roinne Name of the Department	Líon iomlán foirne Total number of employees	Poist sainaitheanta le riachtanas Gaeilge Posts identified with an Irish language requirement	%
An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil   Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	708	0	0.00%
Roinn an Taoisigh   Department of the Taoiseach	209	2	0.96%
An Roinn Airgeadais   Department of Finance	331	0	0.00%
An Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil   Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	399	3	0.75%
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna*   Department of Education and Skills*	-	-	-
An Roinn Cosanta   Department of Defence	351	0	0.00%
An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí   Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	6,853	0	0.00%
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara   Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	3,323	6	0.18%
An Roinn Sláinte   Department of Health	492	1	0.20%
An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt   Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	537	1	0.19%
An Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaiochta   Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation	890	0	0.00%
An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta   Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	665	67	10.07%
An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe   Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	443	0	0.00%
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála   Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	1,884	3	0.16%
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais   Department of Justice and Equality	2,412	1	0.04%
An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige   Department of Children and Youth Affairs	269	0	0.00%
<b>Iomlán   Total</b>	<b>19,766</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>0.4%</b>

\*Thug an Roinn le fios go raibh poist le riachtanas Gaeilge ag 6 aonad dá cuid ach ní raibh ar a cumas tabhairt le fios céin líon foirne a bhí i gceist.

\*The Department informed us that 6 of its units had positions with an Irish language requirement but was unable to specify the number of positions concerned.

## An líon foirne a earcaíodh le linn na bliana 2017

Iarradh ar na ranna rialtais eolas a chur ar fáil maidir leis an líon foirne a earcaíodh le linn na bliana 2017 agus céan chuid den earcaíocht sin a bhain le poist a bhí sainitheanta mar chinn lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge. De réir an eolais a cuireadh ar fáil dúinn d'earcaigh na ranna rialtais 2,008 duine le linn na bliana 2017. Is le poist a raibh riachtanas Gaeilge luaite leo a bhain 13 de na poist sin. D'earcaigh an Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta naonúr den líon sin.

Ag cur san áireamh a laghad post atá sainitheanta mar chinn lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge ní haon iontas go mbeadh an líon a earcaíodh chomh híseal agus a bhí sé. Thabharfadh a laghad post atá sainitheanta mar chinn lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge le fios gur beag deiseanna earcaíochta a chruthaíonn ranna rialtais d'íarrthóirí ó na painéis Ghaeilge a eagraíonn an tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí. Tá an ráta earcaíochta i bhfad faoi bhun an 20% atá luaite i gCeannteidil Bhille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2017 agus léiríonn sé an t-athrú treo a bheidh ag teastáil chun an sprioc sin a bhaint amach.

Thug trí roinn rialtais le fios dúinn gur earcaigh siad daoine le hinniúlacht sa Ghaeilge le linn 2017 cé nár bhain siad sin le poist a bhí sainitheanta mar chinn lenar bhain riachtanas Gaeilge. Ar mhaithle le léargas ionlán a thabhairt ar an eolais a cuireadh ar fáil dúinn tá na sonraí seo aitheanta mar phonóta i dTábla 4 thíos.

## The number of staff recruited during 2017

Government departments were asked to provide details as to the number of staff recruited during 2017 and how much of that recruitment related to positions that were designated as having an Irish language requirement. Based on the information provided the government departments recruited 2,008 persons during 2017. 13 of those posts related to positions having an Irish language requirement. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht recruited nine of that number.

Considering the low number of designated positions with an Irish language requirement it is not surprising that the number recruited was as low as it is. The low number of designated positions with an Irish language requirement would indicate that very few recruitment opportunities are being created by government departments for candidates from the Irish language panels organised by the Public Appointments Service. The rate of recruitment is well below the 20% that is mentioned in the Heads of the Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2017 and it indicates the change of direction required to achieve that goal.

Three government departments informed us that they recruited staff during 2017 with competence in Irish that did not relate to positions designated as having an Irish language requirement. In order to fully reflect the information provided to us these details have been included as a footnote in Table 4 below.



**Tábla 4: Earcaíocht le linn na bliana 2017 | Table 4: Recruitment during 2017**

Ainm na Roinne Name of the Department	Lín foirne a earcaíodh Number of staff recruited	Foireann a earcaíodh do phoist shainaitheanta Staff recruited for designated posts
An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil   Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	86	0
Roinn an Taoisigh*   Department of the Taoiseach*	31	0
An Roinn Airgeadais   Department of Finance	62	0
An Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil   Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	81	1
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna   Department of Education and Skills	170	3
An Roinn Cosanta   Department of Defence	20	0
An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí*   Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection*	337	0
An Roinn Talmhaiochta, Bia agus Mara   Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	270	0
An Roinn Sláinte   Department of Health	86	0
An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt   Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	22	0
An Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta   Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation	116	0
An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta   Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	85	9
An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe   Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	99	0
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála   Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	145	0
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais   Department of Justice and Equality	333	0
An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige*   Department of Children and Youth Affairs*	65	0
Iomlán   Total	2,008	13

\*Ranna rialtais a d'earcaigh foireann le Gaeilge nár bhain le poist shainaitheanta

\*Government departments that recruited staff with Irish not relating to designated posts

Roinn an Taoisigh   Department of the Taoiseach	2
An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí   Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	4
An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige   Department of Children and Youth Affairs	2

### Cumas gealltanais i scéim teanga a chur i bhfeidhm

Mar a luadh roimhe seo, tá idir ranna rialtais a chuireann seirbhísí ar fáil go díreach don phobal i gcoitinne agus ranna rialtais ar beag é a dteaghmáil leis an bpobal i gcoitinne san áireamh san iniúchadh seo. I measc na ranna rialtais is mó a bhféadfadh teaghmáil dhíreach a bheith acu leis an bpobal tá an Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí, an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála, an Roinn Talmhaiochta, Bia agus Mara agus an Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta. Tá gealltanais tugtha ag na ranna sin ar fad ina scéimeanna teanga maidir le seirbhísí áirithe a chur ar fáil trí Ghaeilge don phobal i gcoitinne nó do na pobail Ghaeltachta.

### Ability to implement commitments in a language scheme

As previously mentioned, this audit included both government departments that provide services to the public in general and departments that have very little contact with the public in general. The departments that may have the greatest level of contact with the public include the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. All those departments have provided commitments in their language schemes relating to the provision of certain services in Irish to the public in general or to Gaeltacht communities.



I gcás na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara tá 14 ball foirne (0.42%) aitheanta mar inniúil sa Ghaeilge agus 6 phost sainaitheanta mar chinn lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge. Is léir ón méid atá luaite i scéim teanga na Roinne sin gur poist iad seo atá lonnaithe i gceantair Ghaeltachta.

Ó thaobh na Roinne Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí níl aon phost as na 6,853 sainaitheanta mar chinn lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge. Gealladh i scéim teanga na Roinne, a daingníodh sa bhliain 2015, go n-aithneofaí na poist sin le linn chéadbhliain feidhme na scéime. Ina dhiaidh sin bhí sé mar sprioc ag an Roinn na poist shainaitheanta a líonadh roimh dheireadh thréimhse feidhme na scéime.

Is ag feidhmiú de réir scéim teanga a daingníodh sa bhliain 2006 atá an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála go fóill agus dá bhrí sin níl an cuspóir i leith sainaithint post le riachtanas Gaeilge i scéimeanna teanga ábhartha don Roinn sin. Mar sin féin, thug an Roinn le fios go bhfuil trí phost sainaitheanta aici mar phoist lena mbaineann riachtanas Gaeilge. Is ionann sin agus 0.16% den fhoireann iomlán.

Go ginearálta, is deacair a shamhlú cén chaoi ar féidir le ranna rialtais leibhéal éifeachtach seirbhísí a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge ó bhonn chomh híseal foirne ag a bhfuil an inniúlacht atá de dhíth sa teanga. Ní gá gurbh ionann sin agus sárú a bheith á dhéanamh ar ghealltanais scéime ach tugann sé le tuiscint gur léiriú iad na gealltanais atá tugtha nó go deimhin, nach bhfuil tugtha, ar an easpa acmhainne atá ann.

## Táitail

Léiríonn an acmhainn íseal foirne le Gaeilge, atá faoi bhun 3%, an cumas teoranta atá ann réimse cuimsitheach seirbhísí a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge. Fiú i gcás ranna rialtais atá dírithe go príomha ar fhorbairt beartais, is furasta a shamhlú go bhféadfadh riachtanas a bheith ann d'fhoireann le Gaeilge chun seirbhísí atá dírithe ar an bpobal a sholáthar. Áirítear leis seo seirbhísí malartáin/fáiltithe, déileáil le fiosrúcháin ó na meáin chumarsáide nó soláthar seirbhísí do chustaiméirí, i measc cinn eile.

Níor aimsíomar aon fhianaise de ranna rialtais, mar earnáil, a bheith ag bunú agus ag coinneáil íosmhéid foirne chun a chinntí go bhfuil an acmhainn ann leibhéal réasúnach seirbhísí i nGaeilge a sheachadadh. Tá an chosúlacht air go bhfuil an cumas seirbhísí a sheachadadh sa chéad teanga oifigiúil ag brath níos mó ná riamh ar fhostaithe leis an inniúlacht chuí sa teanga a bheith aitheanta ar bhonn deonach chun déileáil le hiarratais ón bpobal. Ní cur chuige sásúil é seo agus ní chothaíonn sé muinín i measc cainteoirí Gaeilge go mbeidh teacht acu go héasca ar sheirbhísí den chaighdeán céanna i nGaeilge. Ní chruthaíonn sé aon

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has 14 members of staff (0.42%) recognised as being proficient in the Irish language and 6 designated posts with an Irish language requirement. It is clear from the references in that Department's language scheme that these are posts located in Gaeltacht areas.

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection has not designated any posts from the 6,853 employed as being ones with an Irish language requirement. There was a commitment in the Department's scheme agreed in 2015 that those posts would be identified during the first year of the scheme. The Department planned to fill those designated posts before the end of the operational period of the scheme.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is still operating a language scheme agreed in 2006 and therefore the objective in relation to designated posts with an Irish language requirement is not relevant to that Department. Nevertheless, the Department informed us that it had designated three posts as ones that had an Irish language requirement. This equates to 0.16% of its total staff.

On a general level it is difficult to envisage how government departments can provide an effective level of service in Irish with such a low base of employees with the necessary competence in the language. This does not necessarily equate to breaching commitments given in a language scheme but suggests that the commitments provided, or lack thereof, reflect that lack of capacity.

## Conclusions

The low level of staff with Irish, which stands at less than 3%, indicates the current limited capacity to supply a comprehensive range of services in Irish. Even in the case of government departments that deal primarily with policy development it is easy to imagine that they would have a requirement for staff with Irish to provide services aimed at the public. These would include telephone/reception services, dealing with queries from the media or the provision of services to customers, amongst others.

We found no indicators of government departments as a sector establishing and maintaining a minimum level of staff to ensure that there is a capacity to deliver a reasonable level of services through Irish. The ability to deliver services in the first official language would seem to be ever more reliant on employees with the relevant language competency being recognised on a voluntary basis to deal with requests from the public. This is not a satisfactory approach and does not engender confidence amongst Irish speakers that services of equal quality will be readily

bhunchloch ach an oiread don fhorbairt atá le déanamh ar an tairiscint ghníomhach ó chomhlachtaí poiblí chun seirbhísí a sheachadadh i gceachtar teanga oifigiúil.

Léiríonn tortaí an iniúcta seo an t-easnamh atá ann i measc ranna rialtais go ginnearálta ó thaobh acmhainn shásúil fairne le cumas sa Ghaeilge a bheith fostaithe iontu. Is beag fianaise atá ar fáil de ranna rialtais a bheith ag feidhmiú i gcomhréir leis an gcuspóir sonrach sa Straitéis 20 Bliaín don Ghaeilge go n-aithneofaí poist le riachtanas Gaeilge i scéimeanna teanga. San áit a bhfuil an gealltanais sin tugtha tá an chosúlacht air gur cur chuige íosta atá á ghlacadh ag ranna rialtais den chuid is mó.

Sa bliain 2017 d'fhoilsigh an Oifig seo tuarascáil speisialta ar chóras na scéimeanna teanga. Léiríodh sa tuarascáil sin agus san analís a rinneadh ar scéimeanna teanga a aontaíodh in 2015 agus in 2016, an réimse fadhbanna a bhain leis an gcóras reatha. Aithníodh go raibh fianaise ann de chúlú agus d'easca dul chun cinn sna gealltanais a bhí á dtabhairt i scéimeanna teanga seachas a bheith ag cur le réimse agus le caighdeán na seirbhísí. Is furasta teacht ar an tuairim go bhfuil sé ionann agus dodhánta réimse cuimsitheach nó comhsheasmhach seirbhísí a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge gan dóthain fairne le hinniúlacht sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Tá an méid seo le brath ar roinnt scéimeanna teanga ina mbíonn gealltanais atá teoranta. Ba chóir go réiteoidh an córas caighdeán atá beartaithe cuid mhaith de na lochtanna struchtúracha atá aitheanta le feidhmiú fabhtach chóras na scéimeanna teanga. Mar sin féin, d'fhéadfadh an toradh céanna a bheith air mura dtugtar, nó go dtí go dtugtar, aghaidh ar an acmhainn seirbhísí a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge.

accessible in Irish. Neither does it create any platform for the development of a proactive offer from public bodies to deliver services in either official language.

The results of this audit highlight the deficiency that exists amongst government departments in general employing a satisfactory level of staff with proficiency in the Irish language. There is very little evidence of government departments operating towards the stated objective in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language of identifying posts with an Irish language requirement in language schemes. Where such a commitment is given it seems that government departments are adopting a minimalistic approach for the most part.

In 2017 this Office published a special report on the system of language schemes. That report, supported with an analysis of language schemes agreed with public bodies in 2015 and 2016, highlighted a range of issues with the current system. It was found that rather than incrementally increasing the range and quality of services there was evidence of regression and lack of progression in the commitments given in language schemes. It is easy to surmise that without adequate levels of staff with competence in both official languages it will prove next to impossible to deliver either a comprehensive or consistent range of services in Irish. This is reflected in some language schemes containing limited commitments. The proposed system of language standards should address many of structural defects identified in the faulty operation of the language schemes system. It could, however, result in the same outcome unless and until the capacity to deliver services in Irish is properly addressed.



# SUÍOMHANNA GRÉASÁIN NA NÚDARÁS ÁTIÚIL

## Achoimre

Mar chuid de chlár iniúchta na bliana 2018, scrúdaíodh comhlíonadh na ngealltanais atá tugtha ag údarás áitiúla ina gcuid scéimeanna teanga i dtaca lena suíomhanna gréasáin. Léiríonn tortháí an iniúchta nach raibh aon cheann de na deich n-údarás áitiúla ag cloí go hiomlán leis na gealltanais a bhí tugtha acu i dtaca lena suíomhanna gréasáin. D'éirigh le dhá údarás áitiúla, Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe agus Comhairle Cathrach Bhale Átha Cliath, an dara grád is airde a bhaint amach agus iad ag comhlíonadh na ngealltanais den chuid is mó.

Is léir ó thortháí an iniúchta chomh maith go bhfuil éagsúlacht shuntasach maidir leis na gealltanais sna scéimeanna teanga. As na deich scéim teanga a scrúdaíodh ní raibh ach dhá údarás áitiúla a raibh gealltanais tugtha acu go bhfeidhmeoidís suíomh iomlán dátheangach. Bhí sé geallda ag dhá cheann eile go mbeadh an t-ábhar statach ar fad ar fáil i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla agus leis na sé cinn eile bhí gealltanais níos laige iontu faoi roinnt leathanach a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge.

Tá 31 údarás áitiúil sa tír agus tá scéim teanga daingnithe ag an Aire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta le 30 líobh. D'íarr an tAire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta ar Chomhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann dréachtscéim teanga a ullmhú os cionn 4 bliana ó shin, rud nár aontaíodh go fóill. Tá gealltanais i ngach aon cheann de na scéimeanna sin maidir le hábhar áirithe a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge cé go bhfuil éagsúlacht go leor sna cineálacha gealltanais atá tugtha sna scéimeanna teanga éagsúla.

Feidhmíonn suíomhanna gréasáin mar áis thábhachtach eolais agus chumarsáide san earnáil phoiblí agus baintear úsáid fhorleathan astu chun an pobal i gcoitinne a chur ar an eolas maidir le gníomhaíochtaí na heagraíochta agus chun seirbhísí riachtanacha a sheachadadh. Is minic a bhíonn suíomhanna gréasáin ar cheann de na chéad fhoinsí tagartha a úsáideann saoránaigh chun eolas a aimsiú nó rochtain a fháil ar sheirbhísí.

## An dualgas reachtúil teanga

Sna treoirínte reachtúla atá eisithe faoi Alt 12 den Acht tugtar léargas ar an aidhm ba chóir a bheith le gealltanais scéime teanga chomh fada agus a bhaineann sé le suíomh gréasáin an chomhlachta phoiblí. Tá sé molta sna treoirínte sin go gcuirfí aon eolas a bhíonn dírithe ar an bpobal ar fáil go dátheangach:

*"Is é an aidhm go gcuirfí aon seirbhísí eolais idirlín, lena n-áirítear eolas ginearálta faoi ghníomhaíochtaí na heagraíochtaí atá dírithe ar an bpobal go ginearálta ar fáil sa dá theanga."*

## LOCAL AUTHORITIES' WEBSITES

### Summary

As part of the 2018 audit programme, commitments provided by local authorities in their language schemes relating to their websites were examined. The results of the audit showed that none of the ten local authorities were fully compliant with the commitments provided by them in relation to their websites. Two local authorities, Galway County Council and Dublin City Council, achieved the second highest grade due to compliance with the commitments for the most part.

The results of the audit also indicate that significant variation exists in the commitments provided in the language schemes. Of the ten language schemes examined, only two local authorities had given a commitment to provide a fully bilingual website. Another two committed to having all the static content available in Irish and English with the other six having weaker commitments such as making available some pages in Irish.

There are 31 local authorities in the country and the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has agreed a language scheme with 30 of these. The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht requested Tipperary County Council to prepare a draft scheme more than 4 years ago, which has not yet been agreed. Every single one of those schemes contains a commitment relating to the provision of certain material in Irish although there is a high degree of variation in the types of commitments provided in the various schemes.

Websites are an important information and communications tool in the public sector and are used extensively to inform the public in general of an organisation's activities and in the provision of essential services. Websites are often the first sources of reference availed of by citizens when accessing information or services.

### The statutory language requirement

The statutory guidelines issued under Section 12 of the Act set out the objective that a commitment in a language scheme relating to the public body's website should have. It is recommended in the guidelines that any information directed at the public be made available bilingually:

*"The objective is that any internet information services, including general information about the organisation's activities, which are directed at the general public should be made available in both languages."*

Tagraítear do sheirbhísí idirghníomhacha sna treoirlíníte chomh maith agus luaitear gur chóir aon seirbhísí nua den chineál sin a thabhairt isteach go dátheangach. Éilítear gur ceanglas riachtanach a bheadh sa mhéid sin.

Bhí sé mar phríomhchuspóir ag an iniúchadh seo measúnú a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh na ngealltanás atá tugtha ag údarás áitiúla i dtaca lena suíomhanna gréasáin i gcomhréir le feidhmeanna an Choimisinéara Teanga<sup>4</sup>. Scrúdaíodh freisin an soláthar a rinneadh sna scéimeanna teanga do sheirbhísí idirghníomhacha cé nár díródh san iniúchadh ar chomhlíonadh na ngealltanás a bhain leis an réimse seirbhísí sin.

## An obair iniúchta

Socraíodh go scrúdófaí na gealltanais a bhí tugtha ag deich n-údarás áitiúla ina scéim teanga le linn na bliana 2018 agus go dtabharfaí an obair iniúchta sa réimse seo chun críche in imeacht trí bliana, tráth a mbeidh suíomh gréasáin gach údarás áitiúil scrúdaithe. Cuireadh na nithe seo a leanas san áireamh chun teacht ar chinneadh faoi na scéimeanna teanga a ndéanfaí iniúchadh orthu le linn na bliana 2018:

- an t-achar ama ó aontaíodh an chéad scéim teanga leis an údarás áitiúil
- an t-achar ama ó aontaíodh an scéim teanga is deireanaí
- an cineál scéime a bhí i gceist (an chéad scéim, an dara scéim srí)
- an raibh ceantar Gaeltachta ag teacht faoi scáth an údarás áitiúil

The guidelines also contain a reference to interactive services stating that any new services of that sort should be introduced bilingually. This is expressed as being an essential requirement.

The primary objective of this audit was to evaluate the implementation of the commitments provided by local authorities in relation to their websites in accordance with the functions of An Coimisinéir Teanga<sup>4</sup>. Commitments made in language schemes in relation to interactive services were also examined although the audit did not examine the implementation of the commitments relating to that category of services.

## The audit work

It was decided to examine the commitments provided by ten local authorities in their language schemes during 2018 and that the audit programme would be concluded over a three-year period at which stage the website of every local authority would be examined. The following factors were considered in deciding on the language schemes to be audited during 2018:

- the period of time since the first language scheme was agreed by the local authority
- the period of time since the latest language scheme was agreed
- the type of scheme (first scheme, second scheme etc)
- whether a Gaeltacht region was included in the remit of the local authority

## Is iad seo a leanas na scéimeanna teanga a roghnaíodh don iniúchadh: | The following language schemes were selected for audit:

Údarás áitiúil Local authority	Bliain ar daingníodh an chéad scéim teanga Year in which the first language scheme was agreed	Cineál scéime Type of scheme	Bliain ar daingníodh an scéim teanga is deireanaí Year in which latest language scheme was agreed
Comhairle Contae an Chláir   Clare County Council	2007	An Chéad Scéim   First Scheme	2007
Comhairle Contae Liatroma   Leitrim County Council	2007	An Chéad Scéim   First Scheme	2007
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin   Wicklow County Council	2009	An Chéad Scéim   First Scheme	2009
Comhairle Contae Loch Garman   Wexford County Council	2010	An Chéad Scéim   First Scheme	2010
Comhairle Contae Lú   Louth County Council	2007	An Chéad Scéim   First Scheme	2007
Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe   Galway County Council	2005	An Dara Scéim   Second Scheme	2014
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath   Dublin City Council	2006	An Dara Scéim   Second Scheme	2015
Comhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh   Kilkenny County Council	2009	An Dara Scéim   Second Scheme	2013
Comhairle Contae Chiarraí   Kerry County Council	2005	An Tríú Scéim   Third Scheme	2014
Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall   Donegal County Council	2005	An Tríú Scéim   Third Scheme	2014

<sup>4</sup> Fo-alt 21(a) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla | Subsection 21(a) of the Official Languages Act



I mí an Mheithimh 2018 seoladh litir chuig Priomhfheidhmeannaigh na ndeich n-údarás áitiúla a bhí roghnaithe don iniúchadh ag tabhairt réamhfhógra faoin iniúchadh. Seoladh foirm chuig gach údarás áitiúil inar tugadh cuntas ar na gealltanais ábhartha a bhí ina scéim teanga a bhain leis an suíomh gréasáin. Iarradh orthu eolas a thabhairt ar chomhlíonadh na ngealltanais sin.

Scrúdaigh an Oifig seo na suíomhanna gréasáin chomh maith agus thugamar ár mbreithiúnas ar chomh héifeachtach agus atáthar ag comhlíonadh an méid atá geallta sna scéimeanna teanga.

Thug gach údarás áitiúil freagra ar an iarratas agus is mó againn an comhoibriú a cuireadh ar fáil dúinn.

## Tátail agus príomhthortháí

### 1. Leibhéal Géilliúlachta

Tar éis freagraí na n-údarás áitiúil a bhreithniú agus measúnú na hOifige ar chomhlíonadh na ngealltanais a chur san áireamh tugadh ceann de thrí rátáil don chomhlacht poiblí maidir lena leibhéal géilliúlachta i dtaca le gach gealltanais ábhartha a scrúdaíodh. Ba rátáil de 'Comhlíonta', 'Neamh-chomhlíonta', nó 'Páirt-chomhlíonta' a úsáideadh i dtaca le gach gealltanais a scrúdaíodh. Ina dhiaidh sin bronnadh grád iomlán ar an gcomhlacht poiblí, bunaithe ar an leibhéal géilliúlachta a bhí bainte amach i leith na ngealltanais aonarach.

Cuireadh san áireamh freisin cé chomh dúshlánach is a bhí na gealltanais ábhartha agus an grád comhlachta á shocrú. D'fhéadfadh, mar shampla, go mbeadh gealltanais tugtha ag údarás áitiúil an t-ábhar statach ar fad a chur ar fáil go dátheangach agus gealltanais tugtha ag ceann eile gan ach leathanaigh áirithe a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge. Ó tharla gur mó i bhfad an méid oibre a bhainfeadh le hábhar statach a chur ar fáil go dátheangach ná leathanaigh áirithe a chur ar fáil ba ghá an méid sin a áireamh agus an grád deiridh á shocrú.

Socraíodh go bhféadfadh údarás áitiúil ceann de chuíg ghrád a bhaint amach:

- Comhlíonadh go hiomlán
- Comhlíonadh den chuid is mó
- Comhlíonadh méid áirithe
- Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó
- Neamh-chomhlíonadh go hiomlán

Léirítéar sa chairt thíos nár bhain aon údarás áitiúil an grád is airde amach, is é sin, ag cloí go hiomlán leis an méid a bhí geallta acu ina scéim teanga. Níor éirigh ach le 20% de na húdarás áitiúla an dara grád is airde a bhaint amach, is é sin

In June 2018 a letter giving advance notice of the audit was issued to the Chief Executives of the ten local authorities that were selected for the audit. A form was issued to each of the local authorities detailing the relevant commitments in their language scheme relating to their website. They were requested to provide details of their compliance with those commitments.

This Office also examined the websites and adjudicated on how effectively the commitments contained in the language schemes are being implemented.

Every local authority responded to our request and we are grateful for the cooperation provided.

## Conclusions and main results

### 1. Level of Compliance

Having considered the responses of the local authorities and this Office's evaluation of the implementation of the commitments, one of three gradings was allocated to each individual commitment based on the level of compliance. A rating of 'Implemented', 'Not Implemented' or 'Implemented in Part' was allocated to every commitment examined. An overall grade was awarded to the local authority based on the level of compliance achieved for each individual commitment.

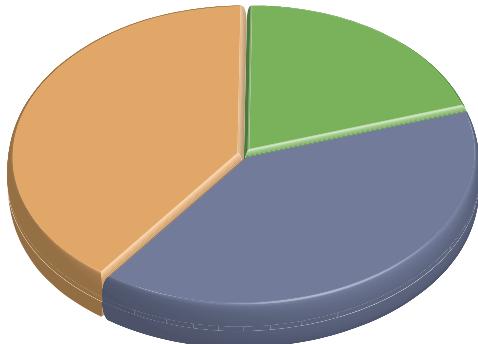
The nature of the relevant commitments was also taken into account in setting the grade achieved by the body. A local authority could, for example, have committed to providing all the static content bilingually whilst another may only have agreed to providing certain pages in Irish. The provision of the static content bilingually would far exceed the commitment of only providing certain pages in Irish and this needed to be reflected in awarding the final grade.

It was decided that a local authority could achieve one of five grades:

- Full compliance
- Compliance for the most part
- Compliance to a certain degree
- Noncompliance for the most part
- Complete noncompliance

The chart below indicates that no local authority achieved the highest grade, that is, fully complying with what they had committed to in their language scheme. Only 20% of the local authorities achieved the second highest grade,

ag comhlíonadh an chuid is mó den mhéid a bhí geallta acu. Chiallaigh sé sin go raibh 80% de na húdaráis áitiúla a scrúdaíodh nach raibh ach ag comhlíonadh méid áirithe de ghealltanais na scéime nó nach raibh ag comhlíonadh na ndualgas den chuid is mó.



that is, implementing for the most part what they had committed to. That meant that 80% of the local authorities examined were in compliance only to a certain degree with the scheme's commitments or were noncompliant with the requirements for the most part.

Comhlíonadh den chuid is mó Complying for the most part	20%
Comhlíonadh méid áirithe Complying to a certain degree	40%
Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó Noncomplying for the most part	40%

Léirítear sa tábla thíos go hachomair an grád iomlán a bhain na húdaráis áitiúla éagsúla amach.

The table below summarises the overall grade achieved by the individual local authorities.

Údarás áitiúil <i>Local authority</i>	Líon gealltanais a scrúdaíodh <i>Number of commitments examined</i>	Grád <i>Grade</i>
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath <i>Dublin City Council</i>	5	Comhlíonadh den chuid is mó Complying for the most part
Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe <i>Galway County Council</i>	5	Comhlíonadh den chuid is mó Complying for the most part
Comhairle Contae Liatroma <i>Leitrim County Council</i>	3	Comhlíonadh méid áirithe Complying to a certain degree
Comhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh <i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	4	Comhlíonadh méid áirithe Complying to a certain degree
Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall <i>Donegal County Council</i>	7	Comhlíonadh méid áirithe Complying to a certain degree
Comhairle Contae Loch Garman <i>Wexford County Council</i>	4	Comhlíonadh méid áirithe Complying to a certain degree
Comhairle Contae an Chláir <i>Clare County Council</i>	4	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó Noncomplying for the most part
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin <i>Wicklow County Council</i>	4	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó Noncomplying for the most part
Comhairle Contae Lú <i>Louth County Council</i>	6	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó Noncomplying for the most part
Comhairle Contae Chiarraí <i>Kerry County Council</i>	4	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó Noncomplying for the most part



## 2. Seirbhísí Idirghníomhacha

Díríodh san obair iniúchta seo ar shuíomhanna gréasáin seachas ar sheirbhísí idirghníomhacha. Ó tharla go mbíonn rochtain ar roinnt mhaith seirbhísí idirghníomhacha ar an suíomh gréasáin tá nasc ládir nádúrtha eatarthu. Sa lá atá inniu ann tá úsáid níos forleithne á baint ag comhlactháí poiblí as seirbhísí idirghníomhacha agus seirbhísí ar líne chun réimse seirbhísí tábhachtacha a chur ar fáil don phobal. Is ceart, mar sin, go mbeadh na seirbhísí seo á gcur ar fáil sa dá theanga oifigiúla go háirithe i gcás aon seirbhísí nua a fhorbraítear. Tá an riachtanas sin aitheanta sna treoirlínte reachtúla is gá do chomhlactháí poiblí a leanúint agus iad ag ullmhú scéim teanga.

Bhí gealltanais maidir le seirbhísí idirghníomhacha luithe i ngach scéim teanga a scrúdaíodh. I bhformhór na scéimeanna teanga tá sé ráite go dtabharfaí aon seirbhísí idirghníomhacha nua isteach go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Bhí gealltanais tugtha freisin maidir le córais a bhí in áit faoi láthair a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge nuair a d'fhéadfá sin a dhéanamh. Tagraíodh i gcuid mhaith scéimeanna teanga don ról lárnach atá ag an nGníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil i soláthar córas den chineál seo d'údarás áitiúla. Is léir go raibh agus go bhfuil cumas roinnt údarás áitiúla córais idirghníomhacha a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge ag brath ar an gcóras a bheith ar fáil ón nGníomhaireacht.

De bharr a líonmhaire atá siad is deacair teacht ar thuairim cén líon ionlán córas atá in úsáid ag údarás áitiúla aonaracha agus cén chuid díobh atá ar fáil i nGaeilge. Mar sin féin, is léir go bhfuil cuid mhaith córais íocaíochta nua atá forbartha ag an nGníomhaireacht ar fáil sa dá theanga oifigiúla mar aon le seirbhísí eile a mbíonn rochtain orthu ó shuíomh na n-údarás áitiúil. Tá roinnt bearnaí go fóill i soláthar seirbhísí idirghníomhacha agus ar líne in earnáil na n-údarás áitiúil go háirithe chomh fada agus a bhaineann sé leis an gcóras leabharlainne agus na seirbhísí pleánála.

## 3. Comóntacht na nGealltanais

Scrúdaíodh comóntacht ghealltanais na scéimeanna éagsúla ó thaobh an chineál ábhar a gealladh a chur ar fáil chomh maith leis na foilseacháin lenar bhain gealltanais. Ar an ionlán ba léir go raibh cuid mhaith éagsúlachta le tabhairt faoi deara sna scéimeanna difriúla. Bhí na gealltanais i roinnt scéimeanna éiginnte agus níor chuir siad móran, má chuir siad ar chor ar bith, le soláthar seirbhísí i nGaeilge.

I gcás Chomhairle Contae Liatroma, mar shampla, bhí sé geallta go dtabharfaí isteach aon seirbhísí idirghníomhacha nua go dáttheangach agus go bhfoilseofaí aon doiciméid a tháinig faoi bhrí Alt 10 den Acht ar an suíomh. Seachas sin

## 2. Interactive Services

This audit programme focused on websites rather than interactive services. However, as many interactive services are accessed through the organisation's website there is a strong natural link between them. Interactive services and online services are used more than ever by public bodies to provide an important range of services to the public. It is proper, therefore, that these services be provided in both official languages, especially where new services are developed. This requirement is already recognised in the statutory guidelines that public bodies must adhere to in preparing a language scheme.

Commitments relating to interactive services were contained in every language scheme examined. In the majority of language schemes, it is stated that any new interactive services will be introduced simultaneously in both official languages. Commitments were also given relating to making current systems available in Irish when possible to do so. Reference was made in many schemes to the central role of the Local Government Management Agency in the provision of systems such as these to local authorities. It is obvious that the ability of many local authorities to provide interactive services in Irish was and continues to be dependent on the systems being made available by the Agency.

Due to their abundance it is difficult to form a view as to the number of systems being used by individual local authorities and how many of them are available in Irish. Nevertheless, it is obvious that many of the new payment systems developed by the Agency are available in both official languages in addition to other services accessed through the websites of local authorities. Some gaps persist in the provision of interactive and online services in Irish by local authorities, most especially in relation to library systems and planning services.

## 3. Commonality of Commitments

The commonality of the commitments contained in the various schemes in relation to the type of material and publications to be provided was also examined. Overall, a great degree of variation was observed amongst the different schemes. The commitments in some schemes were vague and did not add much, if anything at all, to the provision of services in Irish.

In the case of Leitrim County Council, for example, there was a commitment that any new interactive services would be implemented bilingually and that any documents covered by Section 10 of the Act would be made available on the site. Other than that there was a commitment that

gealladh go ndéanfaí "athbhreithniú ar ábhar an tsúmh" agus go mbeadh sé "mar chuspóir an t-ábhar as Gaeilge a leathnú". Ní fhéadfaí a mheas ón ngealltanás sin go raibh dualgas aon ábhar sonrach eile a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge.

## Ábhar

I gcás fhormhór na scéimeanna teanga a scrúdaíodh gealladh go gcuirfí roinnt leathanach de chuid an tsúmh gréasáin ar fáil i nGaeilge. Minic go maith is iad na leathanaigh ar tugadh cuntas ar sheirbhísí nó ar rannóga éagsúla a gealladh a chur ar fáil. I gcás dhá údarás áitiúla, Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe agus Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, gealladh go gcuirfí suíomh iomlán dátheangach ar fáil. Tá sé suntasach gurbh iad seo na húdaráis áitiúla ina bhfuil an dá cheantar Gaeltachta is mó sa thír agus is eagraíochtaí iad a d'aontaigh an chéad scéim teanga sa bláthain 2005. I gcás Chomhairle Contae na Gaillimhe mheasamar go raibh an Chomhairle ag cloí den chuid is mó leis an méid a bhí geallta, cé nach raibh roinnt ábhar agus doiciméid áirithe nach raibh ar fáil ach i mBéarla amháin. Bhí bearnaí níos suntasaí i gceist le Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall agus ar an iomlán bhíomar den tuairim nach raibh an Chomhairle ag comhlíonadh ach méid áirithe den mhéid a bhí geallta aici.

## Foilseacháin

Bhain níos mó comóntachta maidir leis an méid a bhí geallta i dtaca le bunfhoilseacháin ar nós foirmeacha iarratais nó doiciméid a thagann faoi bhrí Alt 10 den Acht a chur ar fáil sa dá theanga oifigiúla.

Ba dhíol suntais dúinn, áfach, gur léirigh an t-iniúchadh seo go raibh roinnt údarás áitiúla ag foilsíú a gcuid ráiteas airgeadais agus doiciméad ina raibh tograí beartais phoiblí i mBéarla amháin in ainneoin an dualgais reachtúil go ndéanfaí na foilseacháin sin go dátheangach.

Tugtar achoimre sa tábla thíos ar na gnéithe is suntasaí de na gealltanais ábhartha a bhí tugtha ag na húdaráis áitiúla:

the "content of our website will be reviewed" and that it was its "objective to increase the content in Irish". It could not be established from that commitment if there was any requirement to provide any other specific material in Irish.

## Material

Most of the language schemes examined contained a commitment to provide certain pages on the website in Irish. In most instances the commitment related to pages providing information on services or departments. In the case of two local authorities, Galway County Council and Donegal County Council, there was a commitment to provide a fully bilingual website. It is significant that these are the local authorities with the two largest Gaeltacht regions in the country and had agreed their first language scheme in 2005. In the case of Galway County Council we were of the opinion that the Council was compliant for the most part with its commitments although some content and certain documents were available in English only. There were more significant gaps in the case of Donegal County Council and overall we were of the view that the Council was only compliant to certain degree regarding the commitments made.

## Publications

A greater degree of commonality was noticeable in the case of commitments relating to core publications such as application forms or documents that are covered by Section 10 of the Act being made available in both official languages.

It was significant that during the audit we found that certain local authorities had published their financial statements and documents containing public policy proposals in English only despite the statutory requirement that they be published bilingually.

The table below summarises the main elements of the relevant commitments provided by the local authorities:



## Gealltanais | Commitments

Údarás áitiúil <i>Local authority</i>	ÁBHAR   MATERIAL			FOILSEACHÁIN   PUBLICATIONS	
	Suíomh iomlán dátheangach <i>Fully bilingual website</i>	Ábhar statach dátheangach <i>Bilingual static content</i>	Leathanaigh eile <i>Other pages</i>	Foirmeacha iarratais ar fáil <i>Application forms available</i>	Foilseacháin Alt 10 ar fáil <i>Section 10 publications available</i>
Comhairle Contae an Chláir <i>Clare County Council</i>			X	X	X
Comhairle Contae Liatroma <i>Leitrim County Council</i>			X	X	X
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin <i>Wicklow County Council</i>			X	X	X
Comhairle Contae Loch Garman <i>Wexford County Council</i>			X		X
Comhairle Contae Lú <i>Louth County Council</i>		X		X	X
Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe <i>Galway County Council</i>	X			X	X
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath <i>Dublin City Council</i>			X	X	
Comhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh <i>Kilkenny County Council</i>			X		
Comhairle Contae Chiarraí <i>Kerry County Council</i>		X		X	
Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall <i>Donegal County Council</i>	X			X	X
Iomlán   Total	2	2	6	8	7

## 4. Céimeanna Breise

Tá dualgas reachtúil ar chomhlacthaí poiblí aon ghealltanais a bhíonn tugtha acu ina scéim teanga a chur i bhfeidhm. Is feidhm de chuid an Choimisinéara Teanga gach beart riachtanach atá faoi réim a údarás a dhéanamh chun a chinntíú go gcomhlíonfaidh comhlacthaí poiblí forálacha an Acharta. Is feidhm dá chuid freisin faireachán a dhéanamh ar chomhlónadh fhorálacha an Acharta, ina measc na forálacha sin a bhaineann le scéimeanna teanga.

Tar éis don Oifig seo an próiseas faireacháin a thabhairt chun críche cuireadh na húdarás áitiúla ar fad ar an eolas maidir le torthaí an iniúcta agus tugadh deis dóibh aon aiseolas breise a mheas siad a bheith ábhartha a chur ar fáil. Seoladh litir bhrefeise chuit Príomhfhéidhmeannaigh na gcomhairí contae ar fad a fuair grád Neamhchomhlónadh den chuid is mó ag iaraidh orthu moltaí a chur faoinár mbráid chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar chomhlónadh na ndualgas reachtúil. Is iad na comhairí contae a bhí i gceist ná Comhairle Contae an Chláir, Comhairle Contae Chiarraí, Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin agus Comhairle Contae Lú. Tá sé d'údarás ag an gCoimisinéir Teanga imscrúdú foirmiúil a dhéanamh ar a thionscnamh féin má thagann sé ar an tuairim go bhfuil forálacha an Acharta á sárú.

Tá roinnt samplaí tugtha in Agusín A de na suíomhanna gréasáin a scrúdaíodh.

## 4. Additional Steps

Public bodies are statutorily obliged to implement any commitments they provide in their language schemes. It is a function of An Coimisinéir Teanga to take all necessary steps within his remit to ensure that public bodies comply with the provisions of the Act. His functions also include monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Act including those provisions relating to language schemes.

All of the local authorities were informed of the results of the audit and invited to provide any additional relevant feedback once the monitoring process was completed by the Office. An additional letter was sent to the Chief Executives of the county councils that received a grade of Noncomplying for the most part asking them to submit recommendations to address compliance with the statutory obligations. The local authorities concerned were Clare County Council, Kerry County Council, Wicklow County Council and Louth County Council. An Coimisinéir Teanga has the authority to initiate a formal investigation on his own initiative if he forms the view that provisions of the Act are being contravened.

*Some examples are given in Appendix A of the websites examined.*

# COMHARTHAÍOCHT AG SUÍOMHANNA OIDHREACHTA

## Achoimre

Bhain an t-iniúchadh seo le scrúdú ar chomharthaíocht a bhí in úsáid ag deich láthair oidhreachta atá faoi bhainistíocht Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí. Scrúdaíodh 562 comhartha san iomlán le linn an iniúchta agus léirigh na torthaí go raibh 320 comhartha san iomlán acu sin (57%) géilliúil go hiomlán leis na dualgais reachtúla teanga a eascraíonn ó na rialacháin (I.R. Uimhir 391 de 2008) atá déanta faoi fho-alt 9(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

Is í Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí (OOP) an phríomheagraíocht stáit atá freagrach as bainistiú a dhéanamh ar fhoirgnimh agus suíomhanna oidhreachta na tíre. Tagann cuid mhaith láithreacha oidhreachta, páircanna, gairdíní, caisleáin agus láithreacha eile faoi chúram OOP. Ina measc seo tá cuid de na láithreacha is aitheanta sa tir ar nós Chaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath, Sceilg Mhichíl agus Gharraithe Náisiúnta na Lus. Thug 6.6 milliún duine cuairt ar láithreacha oidhreachta éagsúla OOP le linn na bliana 2016<sup>5</sup>. Is léir, mar sin, a thábhachtaí is atá sé go mbeadh an chomharthaíocht atá in úsáid ag na láithreacha seo ag tabhairt an aitheantais chuí don Ghaeilge agus ag cloí leis na dualgais reachtúla teanga.

Léiríonn úsáid an dá theanga ar chomharthaí do chuaireoirí gur ann do dhá theanga oifigiúla agus an stádas a bhaineann leo. Taispeánann sé an meas céanna ar an dá theanga agus é sin níos ábhartha fós ag láithreach atá tábhachtach ó thaobh na staire agus na hoidhreachta de.

Rinneadh an t-iniúchadh seo ar dheich láthair oidhreachta atá suite i mBaile Átha Cliath. Bhí sé mar chuspóir leis an iniúchadh teacht ar thuairim ghinearálta maidir leis an leibhéal géilliúlachta a bhain leis na comharthaí a bhí in úsáid ag na láithreacha oidhreachta éagsúla. Den chuid is mó is comharthaí treo agus eolais a bhí in úsáid ag na láithreacha oidhreachta. Scrúdaíodh comharthaí seachtracha, comharthaí inmheánacha, comharthaí buana agus comharthaí sealadacha. Ba léir go raibh éagsúlacht sa leibhéal géilliúlachta a bhain leis na láithreacha éagsúla ach ar an iomlán bhí beagán faoi bhun 60% de na comharthaí a scrúdaíodh ag cloí leis na rialacháin.

I gcomhfheagras a lean an t-iniúchadh thug OOP le fios go gceartófaí réimse comharthaí neamhgheáillíúla ab ábhar don iniúchadh seo. Thagair OOP don chostas a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag baint le comharthaí suntasacha a leasú agus gur in imeacht ama a leasófaí comharthaí den chineál seo.

Ní miste a aithint go bhfuil na rialacháin i bhfeidhmanois le os cionn deich mbliana agus tugadh tréimhse ama do

## SIGNAGE AT HERITAGE SITES

### Summary

This audit concerned the examination of the use of signage at ten heritage sites under the management of the Office of Public Works. 562 signs in total were examined during the audit and the results showed that 320 (57%), were fully compliant with the statutory requirements arising from the regulations (S.I. No. 391 of 2008) made under section 9(1) of the Official Languages Act.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the main state body responsible for the operation of the country's heritage buildings and sites. It is responsible for a large number of heritage, parks, gardens, castles and other sites. These include some of the most identifiable sites in the country such as Dublin Castle, Sceilg Mhichíl and the National Botanic Gardens. In 2016, 6.6 million visitors came to visit the various OPW heritage sites<sup>5</sup>. It is vital, therefore, that signage at these sites give appropriate recognition to Irish and that it complies with the statutory language obligations.

The use of both languages on signage is an important indicator to visitors of the existence and status of the country's two official languages. It demonstrates that both languages are held in equal regard and are all the more relevant in sites that are important from an historic and heritage perspective.

This audit on the ten heritage sites were carried out at locations in Dublin. The objective of the audit was to come to a general opinion on the level of compliance of the signage used at the various heritage sites. For the most part, most of the signs used at the heritage sites were directional and informational. External signs, internal signs, permanent signs and temporary signs were examined. It was clear that the level of compliance varied at the different sites but overall close to 60% of the signs examined were found to be in compliance with the regulations.

In correspondence which followed the audit OPW confirmed that it would correct a range of non-compliant signs that were subject to the audit. OPW referred to the cost which could attach to amending significant signs and that signs of this nature would be amended over time.

It should be noted that the regulations have now been in place for more than ten years and public bodies have been

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.opw.ie/en/media/2016-visitor-numbers.pdf>



chomhlactaí poiblí dul i ngleic le seanchomharthaí neamhghéillíúla; go deimhin, tá go dtí an bhliain 2026 ag comhlactaí poiblí chun réimse áirithe seanchomharthaí a leasú. I ngach cás eile ní féidir neamhaird a dhéanamh den dualgas reachtúil atá le comhlíonadh agus is gá go dtabharfaí faoi chur chuige córasach chun aon chomharthaí neamhghéillíúla a cheartú.

Scrúdófar roinnt láithreacha eile mórrhimpeall na tíre as seo go ceann roinnt blianta.

## An Dualgas

Leagtar dualgais áirithe amach sna rialacháin maidir le húsáid na dteangacha oifigiúla i dtaca le stáiseanóireacht, comharthaíocht agus fógraí taifeadta béal ar gach comhlacht poiblí a thagann faoi scáth an Acharta. Éilítéar faoi na rialacháin nach mór do chomharthaíocht de chuid na gcomhlactaí poiblí a thagann faoi scáth an Acharta a bheith i nGaeilge, nó i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla. I gcás go roghnaíonn comhlacht poiblí comharthaí dátheangacha a chur in airde, is gá dóibh an tsonraíocht atá leagtha amach sna rialacháin a leanúint. Éilítéar sna rialacháin go gcaithfidh an téacs i nGaeilge a bheith ar dtús, go mbeadh sé chomh feiceálach, chomh sofheicthe agus chomh hinléite céanna leis an téacs i mBéarla agus nach mbeadh na litreacha sa téacs i nGaeilge níos lú ó taobh méide de ná na litreacha sa téacs i mBéarla. Chomh maith leis sin, caithfear an fhaisnéis chéanna a chur in iúl agus ní cheadaítear giorrú ar fhocal sa téacs i nGaeilge ach amháin sa chás go ndéantar giorrú ar an bhfocal sa téacs i mBéarla.

Is gá go mbeadh aon chomhartha nua a chuireann comhlactaí poiblí in airde, nó a chuirtear in airde thar a gceann, a bheith ag cloí leis na rialacháin tar éis an 1 Márta 2009. Tá roinnt eochairdhátaí tábhachtacha eile luaite sna rialacháin a bhaineann le dátaí faoina gcaithfear aon chomharthaí a bhí in airde roimh an dáta sin a leasú mura raibh siad ag teacht leis na rialacháin. Is gá, mar shampla, go mbeadh aon seanchomhartha (comharthaí a bhí in airde roimh theacht i bhfeidhm na rialachán) a bhí i mBéarla amháin a bheith athraithe faoin 1 Márta 2013. Fágann sin nár chóir go mbeadh aon chomhartha i mBéarla amháin in airde ag comhlacht poiblí faoin tráth seo ach amháin más cinn iad a thagann faoi bhrí na ndíolúintí a luaitear sna rialacháin. Is gá a chur san áireamh freisin go bhfuil go dtí an 1 Eanáir 2026 ag comhlactaí poiblí comharthaí dátheangacha a athrú más ann nach bhfuil an téacs i nGaeilge chomh feiceálach, chomh sofheicthe ná chomh hinléite céanna leis an téacs i mBéarla nó go bhfuil na litreacha sa téacs i nGaeilge níos lú, ó thaobh méide de, ná na litreacha sa téacs i mBéarla. Níl aon ghá seanchomharthaí dátheangacha a leasú má chloíonn siad leis na rialacháin ar gach bealach ach amháin go bhfuil an téacs i mBéarla ar dtús. Ní thugtar aon sainmhíniú sna rialacháin ar céard is comhartha ann agus mar sin caithfear gnáthbhrí an fhocail a úsáid i gcás go mbíonn aon amhras ann.

given a period of time to address the issue of old non-compliant signs; indeed, public bodies have until 2026 to amend a certain range of old signs. In all other cases the statutory duty to be complied with cannot be ignored and a systematic approach to correcting non-compliant signs must be undertaken.

Several other locations around the country will be examined over the next few years.

## The Obligation

Certain obligations – set out in the regulations regarding the use of official languages on stationery, signage and recorded oral announcements – are placed on public bodies that fall within the remit of the Act. The regulations require that signage of public bodies which come under the auspices of the Act must be provided in Irish, or in Irish and English. Where a public body chooses to erect bilingual signs, it must follow the specification set out in the regulations. The regulations require that the text in Irish shall appear first, that it is as visible, prominent and legible as the text in English and that the letters in the text in Irish is not smaller in size than the letters in the text in English. Also, the same information must be communicated and a word in Irish shall not be abbreviated unless the word in English is abbreviated.

After 1 March 2009, any new sign erected by or on behalf of a public body must comply with the regulations. A number of other important key dates are stated in the regulations relating to dates where any signs erected before that date must be amended if they were not in accordance with the regulations. For example, any old sign (signs erected before the regulation came into effect) which were in English only must be amended before 1 March 2013. As a result public bodies should not have any signs erected in English only except those that come under the exceptions stated in the regulations. Also, it should be taken into account that public bodies have until 1 January 2026 to amend bilingual signs if the text in Irish is less prominent, visible or legible than the text in English or the letters in the text in Irish are smaller in size than the letters in the text in English. There is no need to amend old bilingual signs if they comply with the regulations in all respects except for the text in English being first. Signs are not defined in the regulations, therefore the normal meaning of the word applies where there is any doubt.

## Láithreacha a scrúdaíodh le linn na bliana 2018

- An Gairdín Cuimhneacháin
- Caisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath
- Caisleán Ráth Fearnáin
- Faiche Stiabhna
- Gairdíní Uíbh Eachach
- Garraithe Náisiúnta na Lus
- Músaem na bPiarsach
- Príosún Chill Mhaighneann
- Farmleigh – Teach agus Eastát
- Ionad Cuaireoirí Pháirc an Fhionnúisce agus Caisleán Bhaile an Ásaigh

## An Próiseas Iniúchta

I mí an Mheithimh 2018, seoladh litir chuitg Príomhfheidhmeannach OOP ag tabhairt réamhfhógra go raibh sé i gceist ag Oifig an Chomisinéara Teanga iniúchadh a dhéanamh maidir le úsáid na dteangacha oifigiúla ar chomharthaíocht. Míniódh go ndéanfaí na comharthaí a mheas i gcomhréir leis na dualgais a eascraíonn ó na rialacháin atá déanta faoin Acht. Tugadh amchlár do OOP ina ndéanfaí na hiniúchtaí agus iarradh uirthi fainseis i scribhinn a chur ar fáil i dtaca leis na socruithe atá in áit chun géilliúlacht do na rialacháin a chinntiú.

Sa dara céim den phróiseas, tugadh cuairt ar na suíomhanna oidhreachta a bhí roghnaithe chun iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar na comharthaí atá in úsáid agus glacadh roinnt grianghraif de chomharthaí éagsúla.

I ndiaidh dúinn na suíomhanna oidhreachta a scrúdú, scríobhamar arís chuig Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí ar an 27 Samhain 2018 agus tugadh cuntas di ar thorthaí an iniúchta mar aon le samplaí de chomharthaí neamhghéilliúla. D'iarramar ar OOP filleadh orainn le haon fhaisnéis bhereise ba mhian léi a chur faoinár mbráid. Lorg muid cuntas ar aon chéimeanna a bhí i gceist ag OOP a ghlacadh chun dul i ngleic leis na comharthaí neamhghéilliúla. Cuireadh an fhaisnéis a bhí iarrtha faoi bhráid na hOifige i bhfreagra dar dáta an 20 Feabhra 2019. Is mó agaínn an comhoibriú a thug Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí le linn an phróisis iniúchta.

## Locations examined during 2018

- Garden of Remembrance
- Dublin Castle
- Rathfarnham Castle
- St Stephen's Green
- Iveagh Gardens
- National Botanic Gardens
- Pearse Museum
- Kilmainham Gaol
- Farmleigh House and Estate
- Phoenix Park Visitor Centre – Ashtown Castle

## The Audit Process

In June 2018, a letter was sent to the Chief Executive of OPW giving advance notice that the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga intended to conduct an audit on the use of the official languages on signage. It was explained that the signs would be assessed in accordance with the obligations arising from the regulations made under the Act. A timetable was given to OPW informing it of when the on-site audits would be undertaken and written information was requested as to the procedures in place to ensure compliance with the regulations.

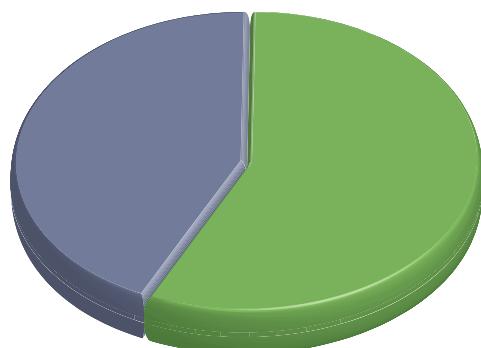
In the second stage of the process, the selected heritage sites were visited to conduct the audit on the signs in use and some photographs were taken of the different signs.

Following the examination of the heritage sites, on 27 November 2018 we wrote again to OPW and provided it with an account of the findings of the audit together with examples of non-compliant signs. We asked OPW to revert to us with any further information it wished to submit. We sought an account of any steps that it intended to take to address the non-compliant signs. This information was submitted to this Office in a reply dated 20 February 2019. We appreciate the cooperation of the Office of Public Works during the audit process.



## Tátail agus príomhthortháí

Le linn an iniúchta scrúdaíodh 562 comhartha agus is beagán faoi bhun 60% acu sin a bhí ag cloí go hiomlán leis na rialacháin atá déanta faoin Acht. Scrúdaíodh réimse fairsing comharthaí idir chinn bhuana agus chinn shealadacha a bhí suite i láithreacha poiblí den chuid is mó. Rinneadh iarracht an oiread comharthaí agus ab fhéidir a scrúdú cé nach raibh sé indéanta gach comhartha ag gach láthair a scrúdú.



## Conclusions and main findings

As part of this audit my Office examined 562 signs of which a little less than 60% were fully compliant with the regulations made under the Act. A wide range of signage was examined comprising both permanent and temporary signs mostly located in public locations. An effort was made to examine as many signs as possible although it was impractical to examine all signs at each location examined.

Comharthaí Géilliúla Compliant Signs	57%
Comharthaí Neamhghéilliúla Non-Compliant Signs	43%

Bhí leibhéal ard géilliúlachta, os cionn 75%, le brath i dtrí ionad a scrúdaíodh agus bhí an leibhéal is airde géilliúlachta, 89%, le fáil i Músaem na bPiarsach. Bhí leibhéal géilliúlachta faoi bhun 20% in ionad amháin, is é sin Garraithe Náisiúnta na Lus.

Tugtar cuntas sa tábla thíos, "Comharthaí de réir Suímh", ar an leibhéal géilliúlachta agus líon na gcomharthaí a scrúdaíodh ag na láithreacha éagsúla. Ní mór a chur san áireamh go bhféadfadh leibhéal éagsúla neamhghéilliúlachta a bheith i gceist leis na comharthaí a scrúdaíodh. I gcásanna áirithe bhí comharthaí ina raibh an téacs i mbÉarla amháin in ainneoin gur cheart go mbeadh comharthaí den chineál sin leasaithe faoin mbliaín 2013. I gcásanna eile bhí comharthaí in úsáid a bhí dátheangach den chuid is mó ach nach raibh ag cloí go hiomlán leis an méid a éilítear sna rialacháin ó thaobh an téacs i nGaeilge. Tar éis measúnú a dhéanamh ar líon na gcomharthaí neamhghéilliúla ag na láithreacha éagsúla agus an cineál neamhghéilliúlachta a bhí le brath a chur san áireamh, chinneamar rátáil 'sásúil' nó 'míshásúil' a bhronnadh ar na láithreacha éagsúla.

A high level of compliance, over 75%, was identified at three locations examined with the highest level of compliance, 89%, at Pearse Museum. Compliance was below 20% at one location, namely, the National Botanic Gardens.

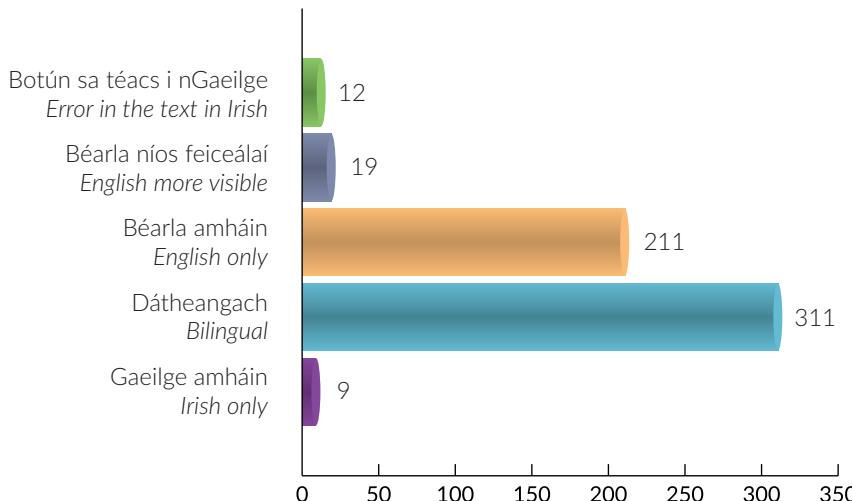
The table below, "Signs per Location", outlines the level of compliance and the number of signs examined at the various locations. It should be taken into account that the signs examined may have different levels of non-compliance. In certain cases there were signs in which the text was in English only despite the fact that signs of this type should have been corrected by 2013. In other cases, signage was predominantly bilingual but did not fully comply with the requirements of the regulations in relation to the text in Irish. Having assessed the number of non-compliant signs at the various locations and having considered the type of non-compliance identified we decided to award a 'satisfactory' or 'unsatisfactory' rating to the various locations.

Tábla: Comharthaí de réir Suímh | Table: Signs per Location

Ainm an tSuímh Location Name	Líon Comharthaí Number of signs	% Géilliúil Compliant	Toradh an Iniúchta Audit Result
An Gairdín Cuimhneacháin <i>Garden of Remembrance</i>	6	50%	Míshásúil <i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Caisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath <i>Dublin Castle</i>	99	42%	Míshásúil <i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Caisleán Ráth Fearnáin <i>Rathfarnham Castle</i>	63	83%	Sásúil <i>Satisfactory</i>
Faiche Stiabhma <i>St Stephen's Green</i>	11	82%	Sásúil <i>Satisfactory</i>
Gairdíní Uíbh Eachach <i>Iveagh Gardens</i>	7	57%	Míshásúil <i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Garraithe Náisiúnta na Lus <i>National Botanic Gardens</i>	101	11%	Míshásúil <i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Músaem na bPiarsach <i>Pearse Museum</i>	109	89%	Sásúil <i>Satisfactory</i>
Priosún Chill Mhaighneann <i>Kilmainham Gaol</i>	75	72%	Sásúil <i>Satisfactory</i>
Farmleigh – Teach agus Eastát <i>Farmleigh House and Estate</i>	43	72%	Sásúil <i>Satisfactory</i>
Ionad Cuirteoirí Pháirc an Fhionnúisce agus Caisleán Bhaile an Ásaigh <i>Phoenix Park Visitor Centre – Ashtown Castle</i>	48	35%	Míshásúil <i>Unsatisfactory</i>
<b>Iomlán   Total</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>57%</b>	

Tugtar cuntas sa léaráid thíos gur líon an-bheag comharthaí a bhí i nGaeilge amháin, agus gur comharthaí iad sin atá suite nach mór ar fad i Músaem na bPiarsach. Is de bharr comharthaí a bheith i mbÉarla amháin a bhí sárú á dhéanamh den chuid is mó ar na rialacháin.

The diagram below indicates that only a small number of signs were in Irish only, and that they are mostly signs that are located at Pearse Museum. The regulations were breached mainly as a result of signs being in English only.





Thug Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí le fios dúinn gur eisíodh Fógra Oifige maidir le húsáid na dteangacha oifigiúla ar chomharthaíocht agus gur meabhraíodh na dualgais a bhí le comhlíonadh don fhoireann in 2014 agus in 2015. Sa bhreis air sin dúradh linn go ndéantar monatóireacht ar chomharthaí ag láithreán oidhreachta go rialta agus go bhfuil comharthaí neamhghéilliúla á n-ionadú de réir mar a bhíonn acmhainní ar fáil.

Go ginearálta, níl aon locht ag an Oifig seo ar na céimeanna atá glactha ag OOP chun an fhoireann a chur ar an eolas faoi na dualgais atá le comhlíonadh maidir le húsáid na dteangacha oifigiúla ar chomharthaíocht. Molaimid mar sin féin go meabhrófaí na riachtanais ar bhonn níos rialta.

Níl Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga sásta le cur chuige OOP i leith seanchomharthaí neamhghéilliúla. Feictear dúinn go dteastaíonn cur chuige níos córasaí chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na cineálacha sin comharthaí agus molaimid pleán a réiteach do gach láthair chun a chinntiú go leasaítear comharthaí neamhghéilliúla san achar is giorra ama is féidir.

## Gearrchuntas ar na suíomhanna éagsúla

### An Gairdín Cuimhneacháin

I gcás an Ghairdín Cuimhneacháin, cé gur líon beag comharthaí atá in úsáid ag an suíomh, bhí 50% de na comharthaí in airde i mBéal Átha Cliath. Ba mhionchomharthaí a bhí sna cinn neamhghéilliúla agus b'fhurasta iad a réiteach.

### Caisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath

Scrúdaíodh nach mór 100 comhartha i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath agus chonacthas dúinn go raibh formhór mór na gcomharthaí, idir chomharthaí sealadacha agus chomharthaí buana, curtha in airde i mBéal Átha Cliath. Bhí roinnt comharthaí dátheangacha ina raibh botúin sa téacs i nGaeilge. Tugadh suntas faoi leith don taispeántas de phorráidí na naoi nUachtarán atá in airde sna Seomraí Stáit agus ina raibh botúin go fairsing sa téacs i nGaeilge. Cuireadh an méid sin in iúl d'Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí tráth an iniúchta agus gearán faighe againn ar an ábhar timpeall an ama chéanna. Ghlac Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí leis nach raibh an téacs Gaeilge ar chaighdeán sách maith agus leasaíodh na comharthaí sin ag an am.

### Caisleán Ráth Fearnán

Táimid sásta go bhfuil formhór na gcomharthaí ag Caisleán Ráth Fearnán ag cloí leis na rialacháin. Tá cuid mhaith painéil eolais in úsáid atá dátheangach go hiomlán agus dea-shampláí ann den bhealach ar féidir eolas a chur i láthair sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Maidir leis na comharthaí nach raibh ag cloí go hiomlán leis na rialacháin, is mion lochtanna atá

The Office of Public Works informed us that an Office Notice was issued to staff regarding the use of the official languages on signage and that a reminder was issued in 2014 and 2015. In addition, it stated that signage at heritage sites is monitored on a regular basis and that non-compliant signs are being replaced as resources permit.

In general, this Office is satisfied with the steps taken by OPW to inform the staff of the obligations to be fulfilled in relation to the use of the official languages on signage. Having said that we recommend that the requirements be reminded on a regular basis.

The Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga is not satisfied however with OPW's approach to old non-compliant signage. We believe that a more systematic approach is required to deal with signs of this nature and that a plan be prepared for each individual site to ensure that non-compliant signs are amended in the shortest time possible.

## Brief account on the various sites

### Garden of Remembrance

In the case of the Garden of Remembrance, although the number of signs in use at this site is small, 50% of the signs were erected in English only. The non-compliant signs were minor signs that could be easily amended.

### Dublin Castle

We examined almost 100 signs at Dublin Castle and the vast majority of signs, both temporary signs and permanent signs, were erected in English only. A number of bilingual signs contained errors in the Irish text. Particular attention was given to the exhibition of portraits of the nine Presidents erected in the State Apartment that had extensive errors in the text in Irish. The Office of Public Works was informed about this at the time of the audit and we had received a compliant on the matter at approximately the same time. The Office of Public Works accepted that the text in Irish was not of a proper standard and these signs were amended at the time.

### Rathfarnham Castle

We are satisfied that most of the signage at Rathfarnham Castles complies with the regulations. There are many information panels in use that are fully bilingual and good examples of how information can be presented in both official languages. Signs that were not fully compliant with

orthu ab fhéidir a réiteach go héasca. Thugamar faoi deara go raibh an téacs 'Rathfarnham Castle' á úsáid ar roinnt comharthaí a bhí dátheangach go hiomlán cé is moite den téacs sin. Ar an mórgóir chonacthas dúinn go raibh aitheantas cuí tugtha don Ghaeilge ag an láthair seo.

### **Faiche Stiabhna**

Bhíomar sásta go raibh formhór na gcomharthaí ag cloí leis na rialacháin ag an láthair seo. Le linn an iniúchta tugadh faoi deara go raibh líon beag comharthaí nach raibh ag teacht leis na rialacháin a thugann eolas faoi uaireanta oscailte.

### **Gairdíní Uíbh Eachach**

I gcás Ghairdíní Uíbh Eachach, cé gur líon an-bheag comharthaí atá in úsáid ag an suíomh is i mBéarla amháin a bhí trí chomhartha as na seacht gcinn a scrúdaíodh.

### **Garraithe Náisiúnta na Lus**

Tráth an iniúchta is i mBéarla amháin a bhí formhór na gcomharthaí a bhí in airde thart timpeall Gharraithe Náisiúnta na Lus. Ba chomharthaí treo agus eolais a bhí i gceist le formhór na gcomharthaí neamhghéilliúla a bhain go díreach leis na garraithe féin nó le taispeántas a bhí ar siúl ann. Is údar iontais an leibhéal íseal géilliúlachta, 11% in iomlán, agus is léiriú suntasach é ar theip chórásach Gharraithe Náisiúnta na Lus cloí leis na rialacháin.

### **Mhúsaem na bPiarsach**

Tá an chomharthaíocht atá in úsáid ag an ionad seo ag cloí le riachtanais na rialachán. As na deich láthair a scrúdaíodh don iniúchadh seo is é an t-ionad seo a bhain an leibhéal is airde géilliúlachta amach agus tá moladh ag dul don Mhúsaem as a chuid iarrachtaí. Bhí líon beag comharthaí ar ar tugadh eolas faoi uaireanta oscailte an Mhúsaeim in airde i mBéarla amháin.

Moladh fóinteach amháin is ea go mbainfí úsáid níos forleithne as ráitis an Phiarsaigh i nGaeilge i bhfianaise an ról lárnach a bhí aige le gluaiseacht athbheochana na Gaeilge.

### **Príosún Chill Mhaighneann**

Táimid sásta go bhfuil formhór an chomharthaíocht ag an ionad seo ag cloí le riachtanais na rialachán. Tugadh faoi deara go raibh roinnt comharthaí treo agus eolais a bhí curtha in airde i mBéarla amháin. Comharthaí neamhbhuana a bhí i gceist leo seo den chuid is mó ar féidir iad a leasú go héasca.

the regulations had only minor errors and could be easily rectified. We noticed that the text 'Rathfarnham Castle' was being used on several signs which were fully bilingual except for that text. In general, we saw that Irish was given the appropriate recognition at this location.

### **St Stephen's Green**

We were satisfied that most of the signs at this location were fully compliant. During the audit it was noticed that a small number of signs providing information about opening times were not in accordance with the regulations.

### **Iveagh Gardens**

In the case of the Iveagh Gardens, although there is only a small number of signs in use at this location, three of the seven signs examined were in English only.

### **National Botanic Gardens**

At the time of the audit, the majority of the signs erected around the National Botanic Gardens were in English only. The majority of the non-compliant signs were directional and informational signs that related directly to the Gardens themselves or an exhibition held there. The low level of compliance, 11% in total, is quite startling and highlights a systematic failure by the National Botanic Gardens to adhere to the regulations.

### **Pearse Museum**

The signage used at this location complies with the requirements of the regulations. Of the ten locations examined for the audit this site achieved the highest level of compliance and the Museum is to be praised for its efforts. There were a small number of signs regarding the Museum's opening hours in English only.

One helpful suggestion might be to make more use of Pearse's statement in Irish in light of the central role he played in the Irish language movement.

### **Kilmainham Goal**

We are satisfied that most of the signage at this location complies with the requirements of the regulations. It was noted that some directional and information signs were erected in English only. These were mostly temporary signs that could be easily amended.



## Farmleigh - Teach agus Eastát

Bhí formhór na gcomharthaí ag an ionad seo ag cloí leis na rialacháin, go háirithe na cinn bhuaná. Go deimhin, bhí roinnt dea-shamplaí ann de chomharthaí ina raibh túis áite tugtha don chló i nGaeilge agus é i gcló trom. Is comharthaí sealadacha den chuid is mó a bhí sna cinn neamhghéilliúla.

## Ionad Cuairteoirí Pháirc an Fhionnúisce agus Caisleán Bhaille an Ásaigh

Is i mBéarla amháin a bhí formhór na gcomharthaí eolais agus treo a bhí in úsáid ag an ionad seo. Bhí sé suntasach chomh maith gur i mBéarla a bhí an téacs ar na painéil eolais a bhí in úsáid ag an ionad seo le hais cinn dhátheangacha a bhí in úsáid ag formhór na n-ionad eile a scrúdaíodh. Mar cheann de na trí láthair a scrúdaíodh le ráta géilliúlachta níos lú na 50% is léir go bhfuil gá le go leor oibre ag an láthair seo chun rátáil shásúil a bhaint amach.

## Táitail

Tá sé ar cheann d'fheidhmeanna Oifig na nOibreaca Poiblí láithreáin oidhreachta a chosaint agus a chaomhnú. Tugann na milliún daoine ón tir seo agus ó thar lear cuairt ar na láithreáin oidhreachta seo gach bliain. Ó tharla gur comhlacht poiblí chun críocha an Acharta í Oifig na nOibreaca Poiblí tá dualgas uirthi cloí le forálacha an Acharta ar a n-áirítear na forálacha sin a bhaineann le húsáid na dteangacha oifigiúla ar chomharthaíocht.

Léiríonn torthaí an iniúchta seo go raibh beagán faoi bhun 60% de na comharthaí a scrúdaíodh ag cloí le riachtanais na rialachán tráth an iniúchta. Bhíomar den tuairim go raibh an leibhéal géilliúlachta sásúil ag leath de na láithreacha a scrúdaíodh in ainneoin go raibh roinnt comharthaí ag na láithreacha seo, go minic cinn shealadach, ar gá iad a leasú.

Tá sé deimhnithe ag Oifig na nOibreaca Poiblí go mbeidh líon suntasach de na comharthaí a scrúdaíodh le linn an iniúchta seo ag cloí leis na dualgais reachtúla faoi dheireadh na bliana 2019. Ón aiseolas a fuarthas ó Oifig na nOibreaca Poiblí, tugadh soiléiriú dúinn ar na comharthaí éagsúla i.e. plaiceanna cuimhneacháin, comharthaí stairiúla agus comharthaí ailtireachta agus cuireadh clár ama ar fáil don Oifig seo faoina gcinnteofar go mbeidh formhór na gcomharthaí ag cloí le riachtanais na rialachán roimh dheireadh na bliana 2019.

Dheimhnigh Oifig na nOibreaca Poiblí go n-eiseofar faisnéis nuashonraithe ar an bhfoireann ábhartha lena chinntíú go mbíonn siad ar an eolas maidir leis na dualgais reachtúla teanga a bhaineann le comharthaíocht ó tharla go raibh tamall ann ó rinneadh é seo in 2015.

Thug Oifig na nOibreaca Poiblí le fios dúinn go bhfuil sí freagrach as 800 séadchomhartha náisiúnta agus as

## Farmleigh House and Estate

Most of the signs at this location were in compliance with the regulations, especially the permanent ones. Indeed, there were some good examples of signs where the Irish print was given priority and in bold print. The non-compliant signs were mostly temporary ones.

## Phoenix Park Visitor Centre – Ashtown Castle

Most of the information and directional signs at this location were in English only. It was also significant that the text on the information panels was in English only at this location compared to bilingual ones used at the majority of the other locations examined. As one of only three sites examined with a compliance rate below 50% it is evident that much work is needed if the site is to achieve a satisfactory rating.

## Conclusions

The functions of the Office of Public Works include the protection and conservation of heritage sites. Millions of people from this country and abroad visit these heritage sites every year. Since the Office of Public Works is a public body for the purposes of the Act it is obliged to comply with the provisions of the Act, including the provisions relating to the use of the official languages on signage.

The results of this audit showed that at the time of the audit, a little less than 60% of the signs examined were in compliance with the requirements of the regulations. We were of the view that the level of compliance at half of the locations examined was satisfactory despite the fact that a number of signs at these locations, very often temporary ones, needed to be amended.

The Office of Public Works has confirmed that by the end of 2019 a significant number of the signs examined during the audit will comply with the statutory obligations. From the information received from the Office of Public Works, we were given clarification on the various signs i.e. memorial plaques, historical signs, and architectural signs and a timetable was submitted to the Office so as to ensure that the majority of the signs would comply with the requirements of the regulations before the end of 2019.

It was confirmed by the Office of Public Works that it would issue updated information to relevant staff to ensure that they are aware of their statutory language obligations on signage, since this has not been done since 2015.

The Office of Public Works informed us that it is responsible for 800 national monuments and historical

réadmhaoin stáiriúil agus nach féidir léi freagra cuimsitheach a thabhairt ar stádas na gcomharthaí go léir atá ag na láithreáin ar fad atá faoina cúram agus nach féidir léi gealltanais a thabhairt i leith na láithreaca go léir.

Léirigh Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí an tuairim chomh maith nach bhféadfáí comharthaí nua-aimseartha buana, lena n-áirítear daingneáin chomharthaíochta i bhfoirgnimh, a uasghrádú mar go bhféadfadh costas ollmhór a bheith ag baint leo agus chomh maith leis sin go mbeadh cead pleánaí agus toiliú an Aire ag teastáil. I dtaca le faisnéis líeirmhíniúch níos sine, mhaigh Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí nach mbeifí á n-athrú go dtí go ndéanfar uasghrádú ar an líeirmhíniú nó sin go soláthrófar dearadh nua de bharr go mbeadh sé ríchostasach. Dúradh gur próiseas fadtéarmach a bheidh anseo.

Maidir le comharthaí oidhreachta nó creatlacha bunaidh foirgneamh stáiriúil, dúirt an eagraíocht nach féidir iad a leasú ná a athrú mar go n-athrófaí carachtar an fhoirgnimh oidhreachta, an láithreáin, an tírdhreaca, i measc nithe eile. Ní mór a chur san áireamh, áfach, nach n-éilítear sna rialacháin go leasófaí aon chomhartha “ar díol spéise é ó thaobh na healaíne, na haitlireachta nó na staire de”. Ar ndóigh, chaithfí tionchar na forála seo a mheas i gcomhthéacs comharthaí aonaracha. Is faoi Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí atá sé cás a chur faoi bhráid na hOifige seo ar na cíuseanna a measann sí nach bhfuil aon dualgas uirthi comharthaí faoi leith a leasú.

Tá an cur chuige atá á léiriú ag Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí maidir le roinnt comharthaí neamhghéilliúla a leasú agus a chur in oriúint do riachtanais na rialachán míshásúil. Tá deich mbliana caite ó foilsíodh na rialachán faoi fho-alt 9(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla faoina ndearnadh socrutithe maidir le húsáid theangacha oifigiúla na tire seo ar stáisearóireacht, comharthaíocht agus fógaírtí taifeadta béal de chuid comhlachtaí poiblí. Sonraíodh tréimhse ama sna rialacháin sin chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar sheanchomharthaí ba ghá a leasú. Léiríodh san iniúchadh seo go raibh os cionn 200 comhartha fós i mBéarla amháin in ainneoin gur cheart aon chomhartha den chineál sin a bheith leasaithe faoi mhí an Mhárta 2013.

Ní fheictear dúinn go bhfuil cur chuige sách córasach á ghlaicadh ag Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí chun dul i ngleic le seanchomharthaí neamhghéilliúla. Bheifí ag súil go mbeadh iniúchadh déanta ar an gcomharthaíocht ag gach láthair roimhe seo agus clár ama socratithe chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na comharthaí is gá a chur in oriúint do na rialacháin.

*Tá roinnt samplaí tugtha in Agusín B de na comharthaí a scrúdaíodh.*

properties and that it cannot give a comprehensive response on the status of all the signs at all the sites it is responsible for, and also that it cannot give commitments in respect of all the locations.

The Office of Public Works also expressed the view that modern permanent signage, including fixed signs in buildings, could not be upgraded due to the immense cost involved and also because planning permission and the Minister's consent would be required. In relation to older interpretive information, the Office of Public Works claimed that it would not be changed until the interpretation was upgraded or a new design submitted as it would be too costly. It said that this would be a long-term process.

In the case of heritage signs or the original frame of historic buildings, the organisation said that these can't be amended or altered as the character of the heritage building, the site, the landscape would be altered, amongst other things. It must be taken into account, however, that there is no requirement to alter a sign “that is of artistic, architectural or historical interest”. Of course, the impact of this provision would have to be considered in the context of the individual signs. It is a matter for the Office of Public Works to present a case to this Office on the reasons it considers that it is not obliged to amend a particular sign.

The approach taken by the Office of Public Works in relation to amending some non-compliant signs and adapting them to the requirements of the regulations is unsatisfactory. Ten years have elapsed since the regulations made under section 9(1) of the Official Languages Act were published, specifying the arrangements for the use of the official languages of this country by public bodies on stationery, signage and recorded oral announcements. The regulations specify a time period to address old signs that needed to be amended. This audit showed that 200 signs were still in English only, despite the fact that any such signs should have been amended by March 2013.

The Office of Public Works is not taking the appropriate systematic approach to tackle the non-compliant old signs that would be expected. An audit should have been carried out on the signs at all locations before now and a timetable set out to address the signs that needed to be made compliant with the regulations.

*Some examples are given in Appendix B of the signs examined.*

# AGUISÍN A | APPENDIX A

## Comhairle Contae an Chláir | Clare County Council

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Clare County Council website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Council', 'Services', 'Living', 'Business', 'Volunteering', 'News', and 'What's on'. The main headline reads 'Clare retains Blue Flags and Green Coast Awards' with a subtext: 'An Táisce has awarded the prestigious International Blue Flag to 9 Clare beaches.' Below this is a large image of a coastal landscape. A call-to-action button 'View Details' is visible. The footer contains a brief mission statement: 'Enhancing the quality of life in County Clare through leadership and partnership'.

This screenshot shows a specific page titled 'Foileachán Tithiochta' (Information Act). The page includes a sidebar with links to various council services like 'Eisíteann gComhairle', 'Bordúint ag Chaitheamh', 'Vital', 'Síle Beatha ag Chomhairle', 'Meetings', 'Your Rights in Information', 'Formeacha', and 'Foileachán'. The main content area discusses the Information Act, noting that it is welcomed by the council, and provides contact information for requests.

This screenshot shows the 'Seirbhís trí Mhéan na Gaeilge' (Customer Services in Irish) page. It features a sidebar with links to 'About the Council', 'Welcome', 'Councillors', 'Our commitment to customer services', 'Customer Charter', 'Customer Services Desk', 'How to Make a Complaint', 'Seirbhís Tri Mhéan na Gaeilge', 'An Seomra Teangeolaíochta 2007 - 2010', and 'Management structure and leadership'. The main content area discusses the provision of a high-standard bilingual service and lists staff who conduct business in Irish.

This screenshot shows the 'Cáin Mótar Áitiúil' (Motor Vehicle Tax) page. It features a grid of six boxes: 'MOTORCHAS' (Motorcycle), 'PHÁRMASÍD CHINÉASACH FITHIENE A THÍREANN' (Motorcycle Registration), 'CINÉASÍD FITHIENE A THÍREANN' (Motor Vehicle Registration), 'CÁIN MÓTAR CHINÉASACH PHITHEILE' (Motorcycle Tax Payment), 'CÁIN MÓTAR PHITHEILE' (Motor Vehicle Tax Payment), and 'FOSAMHNAIS' (Tax Assessment). The bottom of the page includes a section for 'Cén fáth gur gá dom cinn ar an fhéachfaidh a lóic ar fios?' and 'Cáin a mhaistíonn an UAFP'.

## Comhairle Contae Liatroma | Leitrim County Council

The screenshot shows the Leitrim County Council website's homepage. The main menu includes 'Leitrim.ie', 'Leitrim County Council', 'Leitrim Business', 'Leitrim Sports', 'Leitrim Tourism', and 'Leitrim Living'. A green sidebar on the left is titled 'Gaeilge' and contains links for 'Máistrí leis an gComhairle', 'Dán Teagmháil le Cúram do Chustaiméirí', 'Foras Bainiúchála Sinoeach Comhairle Contae Liatroma', and 'Raid Oifigiúcháin'. The central content area features a heading 'Máistrí leis an gComhairle' and a text block about the formation of the County Council in 1888.

The screenshot shows the 'Housing' section of the website. The main menu and sidebar are identical to the previous screenshot. The central content area features a heading 'Housing Application Forms' and links to 'Rent Assessment Form', 'Application Form for Social Housing Support', and 'Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability'.

The screenshot shows the 'Dán Teagmháil' section of the website. The main menu and sidebar are identical. The central content area features a heading 'Dán Teagmháil le Cúram do Chustaiméirí' and contact information: Tel: 071 9620005, Fax: 071 9621982, Email: customerservices@leitrmcc.ie'. It also includes a 'Seachtain Gaeo Ar Aile' section with a note about the closure of the Customer Services office.

The screenshot shows the 'Your Council' section of the website. The main menu and sidebar are identical. The central content area features a heading 'Publications' and links to 'Irish Language Scheme (Ireland)', 'Corporate Plan 2014 - 2018', 'Annual Report 2014', 'Annual Report 2015', 'Annual Report 2016', 'Annual Report 2017', 'Annual Service Delivery Plan 2018', and 'Data Protection Policy'.

# Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin | Wicklow County Council

LIVING BUSINESS VISIT

Quick Links: Wicklow County Council Contact Us

WICKLOW - ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

LIVING BUSINESS VISIT

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

LIFE, BUSINESS AND BUSINESS IN BEAUTIFUL COUNTY WICKLOW

LIVING BUSINESS VISIT

Quick Links: Wicklow County Council Contact Us

LIVING IN WICKLOW

Services: YOUR COUNCIL NEWS & EVENTS

## Governance

Living / Your Council / Governance /

IN THIS SECTION

- Annual Reports
- Chief Executive's Monthly Reports
- Freedom Of Information
- Access & Disability
- Data Protection - GDPR
- The Protected Disclosures Act 2014
- Regulation Of Lobbying Act 2015
- Access to Information on the Environment
- Pay & Grading Structure
- Principles of Governance

**Annual Reports**

Access to Wicklow County Council Annual Reports.

**Annual Report 2017**

Annual Report 2017  
File type: pdf

**Annual Report 2016**

Wicklow County Council Annual Report 2016  
File type: pdf

Táirgiseadh Bhíonn an Chomhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin 2016

LIVING BUSINESS VISIT

Quick Links: Wicklow County Council Contact Us

LIVING IN WICKLOW

Services: YOUR COUNCIL NEWS & EVENTS

## Your Council

Are you interested about Wicklow County Council and its functions?

Wicklow County Council

**Customer Care**

- Contact Us
- Emergency Contacts
- Press Media Enquiries
- Main Enquiry or Complaint
- Management Team

**Your Councillors**

- Elected Member Expenses
- Ethics Declarations
- Bill Committee

**Municipal Districts**

- Arlow
- Ballyglass
- Ballymore
- Greystones
- Wicklow

LIVING BUSINESS VISIT

Quick Links: Wicklow County Council Contact Us

LIVING IN WICKLOW

Services: YOUR COUNCIL NEWS & EVENTS

## Customer Care

Living / Your Council / Customer Care /

IN THIS SECTION

**Contact Us**

- Emergency Contacts
- Main Enquiry or Complaint
- Management Team
- Codes of Conduct
- Customer & Staff Charter
- County Warden
- Fix Your Street
- Major Emergency Plan

**Contact Us**

**Council Office**

- T: (046) 20100
- F: (046) 87792
- E: [communications@wicklow.ie](mailto:communications@wicklow.ie)
- Chief Executive: Frank Curran

**Address**

Wicklow County Council  
County Buildings  
Wicklow  
Wicklow Town  
A87 FV98

**Opening Hours**

**Offices**

Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

**Motor Tax Counter**

Mon - Fri 9am - 3.30pm (open during lunch)

**Planning Counter**

Mon - Fri 9am - 3.30pm (open during lunch)

**Housing Counter**

## Comhairle Contae Loch Garman | Wexford County Council

**Mótarbháin**

- Teagmháil a dhianamh leis an gComhairle, Uaireanta Oscailte, Forneacha agus Rátaí
- Cén a Chur ar d'Fheithidil
- Neamhsúilid Feithidile a Dhearrbhú
- Tulladh...

**Pleanáil**

- Pleananna Ceantair Áitiúla agus Pleananna Forbartha
- Cuardaigh Iarratais Phleanála
- Iarratais Phleanála
- Tullaeth...

**Leabharlanna**

- Cuardaigh Leabhar agus Óileán do chuid Leabhar a Athnuachan
- Uaireanta Oscailte agus Braislí
- Céard atá ar siúl i mo Leabharlann
- Tullaeth...

**Sonrai Teagmhála & Uaireanta Oscailte**

Contact Details, Opening Hours and Payment Options for the Motor tax Office

**Foirmeacha Mótarbháinach**

Foirmeacha coitianta mótarbháinach.

**Rátaí & Riaráilstíf Mótarbháinach**

Find the Motor Tax Rate by entering a Registration Number or alternatively View the full list of motor tax rates Motor tax arrears are charged at 1/10th of the annual rate per month.

**Mótarbháin**

- Teagmháil a dhianamh leis an gComhairle, Uaireanta Oscailte, Forneacha agus Rátaí
- Cén a Chur ar d'Fheithidil
- Neamhsúilid Feithidile a Dhearrbhú
- Tulladh...

**Pleanáil**

- Pleananna Ceantair Áitiúla agus Pleananna Forbartha
- Cuardaigh Iarratais Phleanála
- Iarratais Phleanála
- Tullaeth...

**Libraries**

Search for and renew your books

Opening Hours and Branches

What's on in my Library?

More...

**Contact Us**

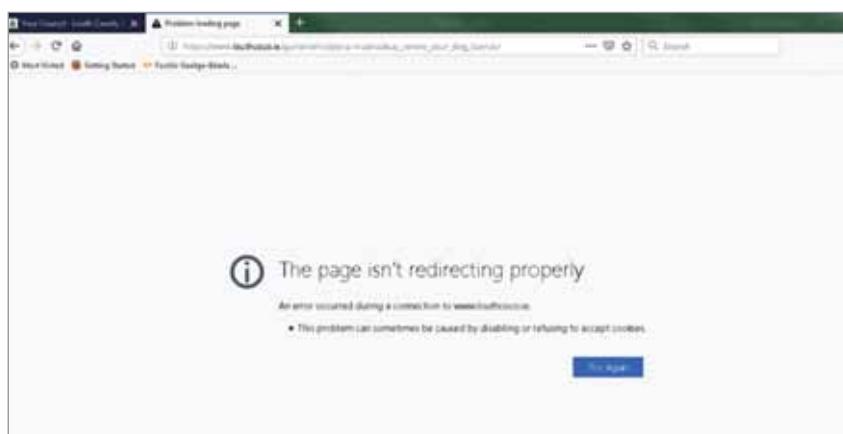
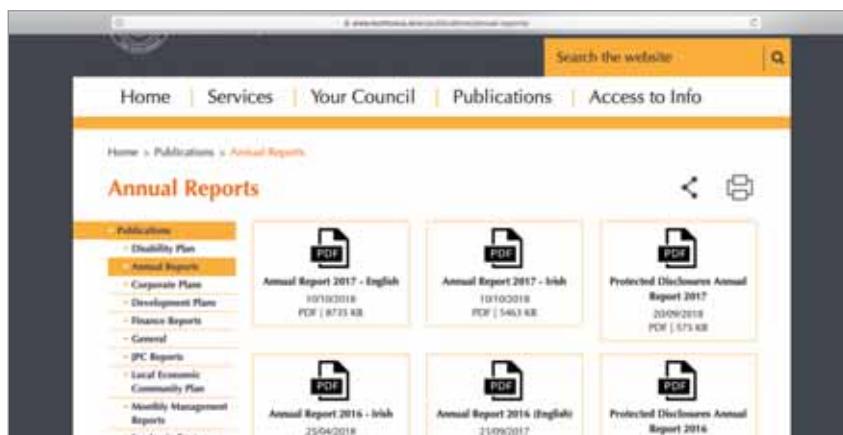
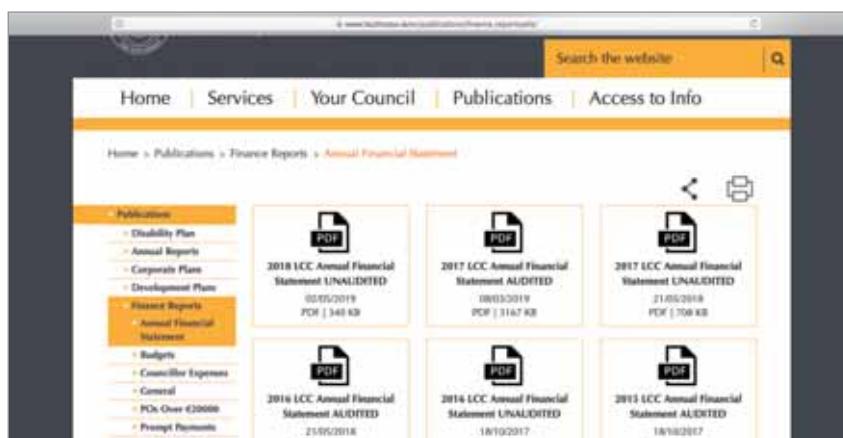
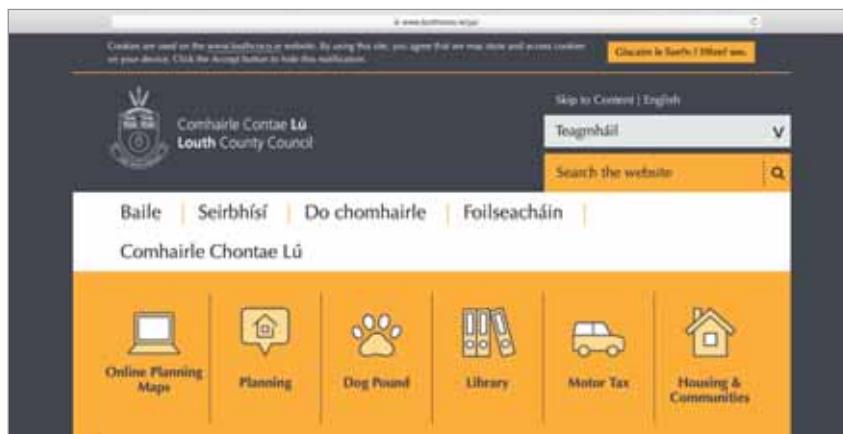
You can contact us in the following ways.

Wexford County Council Contact Details	
email	<a href="mailto:customerservice@wexfordcoco.ie">customerservice@wexfordcoco.ie</a>
053 919 6000	
Council Headquarters	9am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm
Phone	Monday to Friday - Except Public Holidays & Good Friday
Department Opening Hours	Click on links below for contact details / opening hours of individual offices
	County Hall, Carricklow, Wexford

**Gaolmhar**

- Mótarbháin
- Pleanáil
- Leabharlanna
- Bóthre, Taistil & Párceáil
- Dramháill agus Athchúrsáil
- Títhiocht
- An Comhsaoil
- An Chomhairle & Daonlathas
- Gná
- An Pobal
- Na hEalaíona & an Cultúr
- Seirbhísí Éigeandála

# Comhairle Contae Lú | Louth County Council



## Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe | Galway County Council



# Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath | Dublin City Council

The screenshot shows the Dublin City Council website's homepage. At the top, there is a blue header with the council's logo and name. Below the header is a search bar and a navigation menu with links like "Most Used", "I want to...", "Contact Us", "Local Overview", "Map Zone", and "Events". The main content area has a teal background and contains a sidebar with links such as "Ar gCuid Beartaithe", "Dúin Langhainn i Rith an Dáin", and "Seo Thíos Eigseandála Oifarchair, Déileann agus Tarrthála Bhaile Átha Cliath". There is also a "Dublin City Council Publications" section and a "See Also" section.

This screenshot shows the "Imeachtaí Gaeilge" (Irish Language Initiatives) page. The URL is [www.dublincity.ie/irish/gaeilge/initiatives/](http://www.dublincity.ie/irish/gaeilge/initiatives/). The page features a large image of two people talking, with the text "labhair liom" overlaid. The left side of the page contains text about the initiatives and links to "www.dublincity.ie/irish".

This screenshot shows the "Fórmheacha láratais" (Community Initiatives) page. The URL is [www.dublincity.ie/irish/initiatives/](http://www.dublincity.ie/irish/initiatives/). It features a large image of two people talking, with the text "labhair liom" overlaid. The left side of the page contains text about the initiatives and links to "www.dublincity.ie/irish/initiatives/".

This screenshot shows the "loc ar Line" (Locally Based Initiatives) page. The URL is [www.dublincity.ie/irish/initiatives/loc\\_ar\\_line/](http://www.dublincity.ie/irish/initiatives/loc_ar_line/). It features a large image of two people talking, with the text "labhair liom" overlaid. The left side of the page contains text about the initiatives and a list titled "Tá 10 gunturas éagsúla ar fáil:" which includes items like "Muirí ar Chomhairle Chinncheadail", "Inseachtaí Tíortha", "Fórmheacha láratais", "Cleasanna Tíortha", "Stáit Coimhghairdíní Thíortha", "Athnuachtan Caisleáin Péarsaí 1 Bhláth", "Athnuachtan Caisleáin Péarsaí 2 Bhláth", "Caisleáin Mhór", "Muirí Ulra Meadaithe", and "Muirí Ulra Seasaí".

## Comhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh | Kilkenny County Council

The screenshot shows the Kilkenny County Council Online homepage. The main content area features a large image of a modern building under construction, identified as the 'Redevelopment of Mayfair Building'. Below the image, there is a list of links related to the project, including 'An Huacht Is Díenal' and 'Fogair Plasmha'.

**Proposed Development - Mayfair L**  
Open for submissions or observations

**Redevelopment of Mayfair Building**

- An Huacht Is Díenal
- Fogair Plasmha

The screenshot shows a presentation slide titled '120 Years of Local Government' from 'Kilkenny County Council 120 Years - Presentation'. The slide features a photograph of a historic building and includes a list of links at the bottom:

- An Huacht Is Díenal
- Fogair Plasmha
- Fogair Bíobhre
- Fogair Uisce

**120 Years of Local Government**

**Kilkenny County Council 120 Years - Presentation**

- An Huacht Is Díenal
- Fogair Plasmha
- Fogair Bíobhre
- Fogair Uisce

**120 Years of Local Government**

**Kilkenny County Council 120 Years - Presentation**

- An Huacht Is Díenal
- Fogair Plasmha
- Fogair Bíobhre
- Fogair Uisce

The screenshot shows a presentation slide titled '120 Years of Local Government' from 'Kilkenny County Council 120 Years - Presentation'. The slide features a photograph of a historic building and includes a list of links at the bottom:

- An Huacht Is Díenal
- Fogair Plasmha
- Fogair Bíobhre
- Fogair Uisce

**120 Years of Local Government**

**Kilkenny County Council 120 Years - Presentation**

- An Huacht Is Díenal
- Fogair Plasmha
- Fogair Bíobhre
- Fogair Uisce

The screenshot shows the 'Irish Language Scheme' page of the Kilkenny County Council Online website. The page includes a sidebar with 'In this Section' links and a main content area with sections for 'Corporate Affairs' and 'Contact Information'.

**In this Section**

- Online Services
- The Protected Disclosures Act 2014
- Data Protection
- Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure
- Annual Declarations Local Authority Members
- Economic and Social Committee

**Irish Language Scheme**

Language Scheme 2019 to 2023  
Súilín Teangeolaíochta 2019 to 2022  
Irish Language Scheme 2013 - 2014  
Comissionas Gaeilge 2013 - 2018  
Advertisement - Preparation of Draft Language Scheme

Seo le lár do shóilíne as an Fhorbairt ná ceannas a mairid le scribhinn ar fát til mhean na Gaeilge chug an tseatach ríomhphost a leanas: [gaeilge@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:gaeilge@kilkennycoco.ie)

Please send any queries or issues in relation to services provided

**Corporate Affairs**

**Opening Hours**  
Monday to Friday  
9am through lunch to 5pm  
Afternoon Closed 1-2pm  
(July & August)

**Contact Information**  
County Hall,  
John Street, Kilkenny City  
Phone: 056 - 7794078  
Email: [corporate@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:corporate@kilkennycoco.ie)

# Comhairle Contae Chiarraí | Kerry County Council

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Kerry County Council website. At the top, there's a banner for 'Seirbhísí Gaeilge' (Irish Language Services) with a photo of a landscape. Below the banner are several navigation links: 'About the Council', 'Our Services', 'Online Planning Inquiry', 'Tourism', 'Welcome', and 'Contact Us'. A sidebar on the right contains buttons for 'Pay For It', 'Report It', 'Apply For It', and 'Have Your Say'. A 'Most Visited' section lists links to 'Local News', 'Assessments', 'Schemes/Policies', 'Invest in Kerry', and 'Planning Inquiry'.

This screenshot shows the 'About the Council' page. It features a large text block about the council's role in providing services like housing, planning, and emergency services. It also discusses the election of 2016 and the four municipal districts. To the right, there's a 'Contact Us' box with the council's address: 'Co. Kerry, Co. Buildings, Rathen, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Tel: 066 7000000; E: info@kcc.ie'.

The 'Publications' page is shown here. It has tabs for 'Financial Documents', 'Annual Reports', 'Plans & Policies', 'Build', and 'Other'. The 'Annual Reports' tab is selected, showing a list of reports from 2011 to 2014. A footer at the bottom includes a map of Ireland with county outlines and a copyright notice: '© 2016 Kerry County Council. All rights reserved. Tel: 066 7000000 | E: info@kcc.ie | Customer Service: 0899 1232'.

This screenshot shows another view of the 'Publications' page. The 'Annual Reports' tab is still selected, but the list of documents includes items like 'Kerry County Council Corporate Plan 2013 - 2017', 'Killary River Traffic Model/Traffic Management Study', 'Killary River Catchment Plan 2009-2015', 'Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015', 'Kia-Pay Policy', and 'Towns Decommisisoning Programme 2014-2019'.

## Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall | Donegal County Council

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Donegal County Council website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Síce', 'Tionchar', 'Ach Comhairle', 'Politá', 'Cultur', 'Údar', and 'Other Commissioners'. Below the navigation is a banner featuring the Donegal County Council crest and some text. The main content area displays three news items:

- 10 Aibreán 2018:** An ghearr in spidíochas ar an ghearrpháistí
- 10 Aibreán 2018:** Meath ag thiomáinteach a thionscail idir an ghearrpháistí agus an ghearrpháistí eile i níos mó
- 10 Aibreán 2018:** Póil a mheáltear ar Ráid Mhíle

On the right side, there's a sidebar with sections for 'Míleataí' (Statistics), 'Láithreolaíochta' (Demographics), and 'Tábhachtach ag tionscail' (Key statistics). Social media links for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn are also present.

This screenshot shows a specific page on the Donegal County Council website. The main content is about the 'Donegal Road Safety website' (www.donegalsafety.ie). It includes a brief description, a screenshot of the website, and a link to 'Céard an Áitála' (About the website). On the left, there's a sidebar with a section titled 'Seo Mhíleataí' (These are statistics) containing a list of various data points like 'Dúine an Chlúib', 'An Chláib', 'An Chláib', etc.

This screenshot shows another specific page on the Donegal County Council website. It features a link to the 'Donegal Fire and Emergency Services website' (www.donegalfireservice.ie). The page includes a brief description, contact information (Address: 87a St. Eoin's, Fax: 074 91 72012, Email: info@donegalfire.ie), and a link to 'Céard an Áitála' (About the website). Similar to the previous page, it has a sidebar with 'Seo Mhíleataí' (Statistics) and a list of data points.

This screenshot shows the final specific page on the Donegal County Council website. It features a link to the 'Donegal Fire and Emergency Services website' (www.donegalfire.ie). The page includes a brief description, contact information (Address: 87a St. Eoin's, Fax: 074 91 72012, Email: info@donegalfire.ie), and a link to 'Céard an Áitála' (About the website). The sidebar on the left is identical to the previous pages, showing 'Seo Mhíleataí' (Statistics) and a list of data points.



AGUISÍN B | APPENDIX B

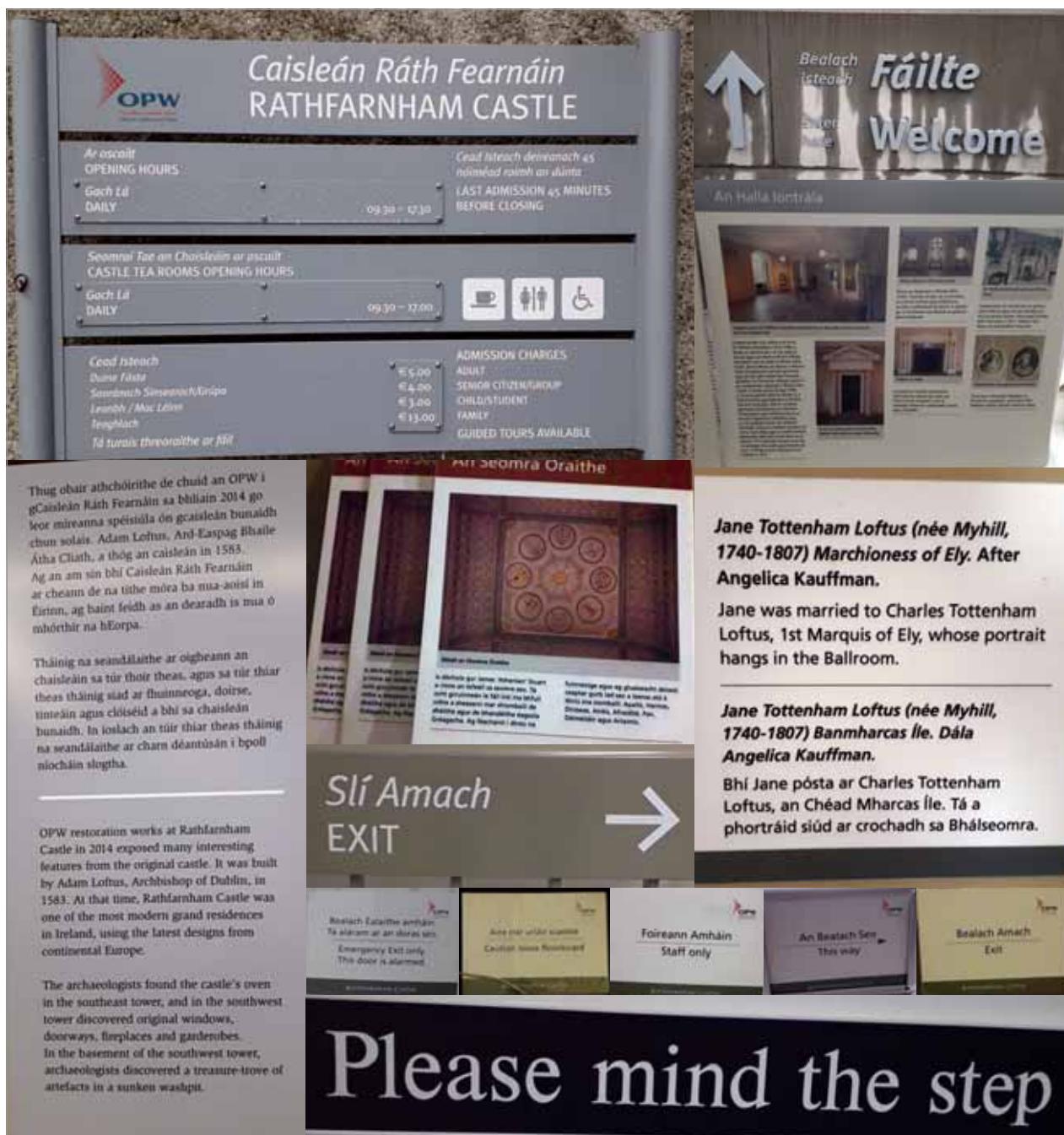
An Gairdín Cuimhneacháin | Garden of Remembrance



## Caisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath | Dublin Castle



## Caisleán Ráth Fearnán | Rathfarnham Castle



Thug obair athchóirithe de chuid an OPW i gCaisleán Ráth Fearnán sa bhliain 2014 go leor mireanna spéisiúla ón gráidéan bunaidh chun solais. Adam Loftus, Ard-Easpag Rialta Átha Cliath, a thóg an caisleán in 1583.

Ag an am sin bhí Caisleán Ráth Fearnán ar cheann de na tithe móra ba mha-anáis in Éirinn, ag baint feidh an dearaidh is mua ón mbordbair ná hÉorpa.

Tháinig na seandáilithe ar oigeann an chaisleán sa tús theas, agus sa tús thiar theas tháinig siad ar fhuinneog, doirse, timéarán agus cloisnéid a bhí sa chaisleán bunaidh. In iolach an tuir thiar theas tháinig na seandáilithe ar chara déantúsan i bpoll níocháin slughta.

OPW restoration works at Rathfarnham Castle in 2014 exposed many interesting features from the original castle. It was built by Adam Loftus, Archbishop of Dublin, in 1583. At that time, Rathfarnham Castle was one of the most modern grand residences in Ireland, using the latest designs from continental Europe.

The archaeologists found the castle's oven in the southeast tower, and in the southwest tower discovered original windows, doorways, fireplaces and garderobes. In the basement of the southwest tower, archaeologists discovered a treasure-trove of artefacts in a sunken washpit.

**Jane Tottenham Loftus (née Myhill, 1740-1807) Marchioness of Ely. After Angelica Kauffman.**

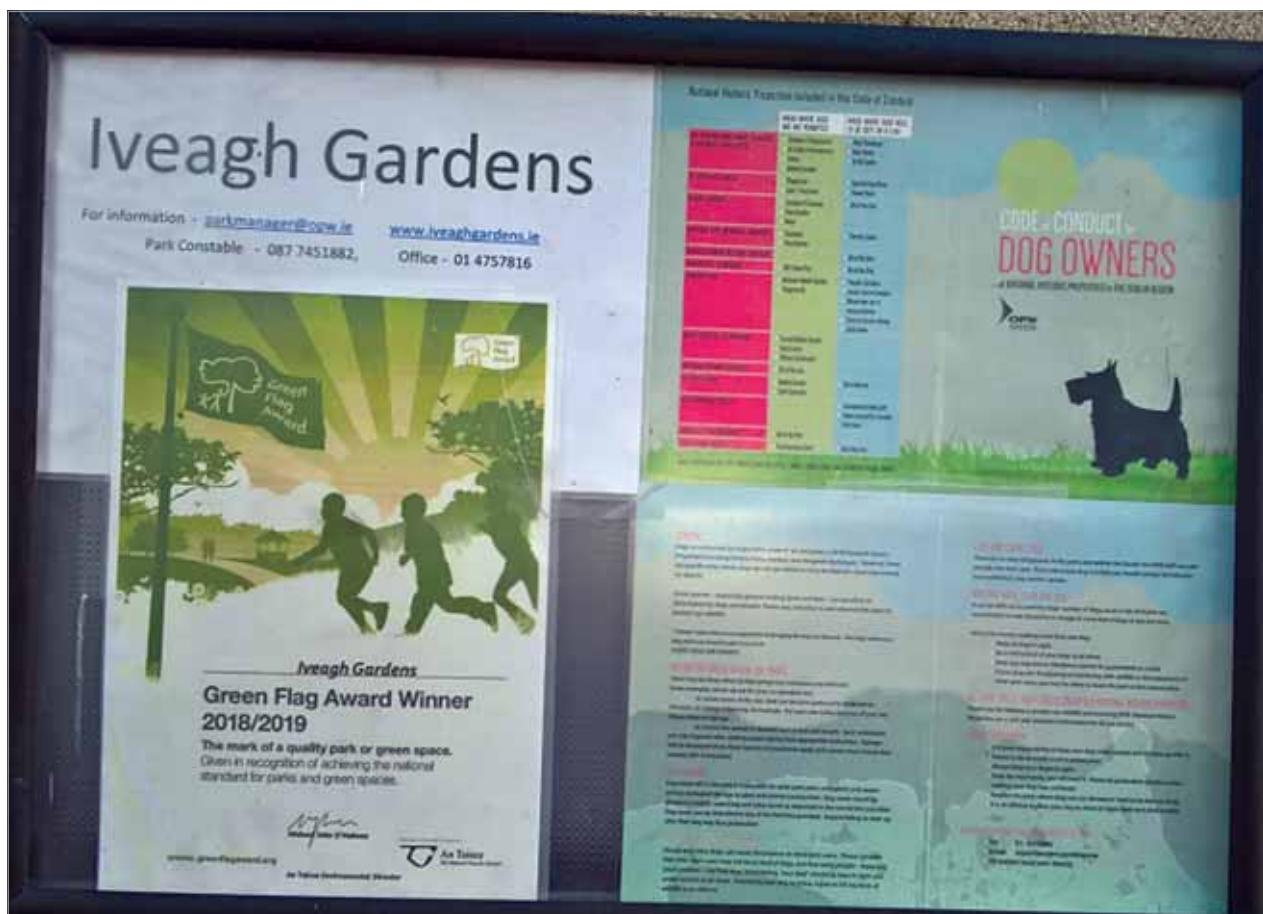
Jane was married to Charles Tottenham Loftus, 1st Marquis of Ely, whose portrait hangs in the Ballroom.

**Jane Tottenham Loftus (née Myhill, 1740-1807) Banmharcas Ile. Dála Angelica Kauffman.**

Bhí Jane pósta ar Charles Tottenham Loftus, an Chéad Mharcas Ile. Tá a phortráid siúd ar crochadh sa Bhálseomra.

## Faiche Stiabhna | St Stephen's Green





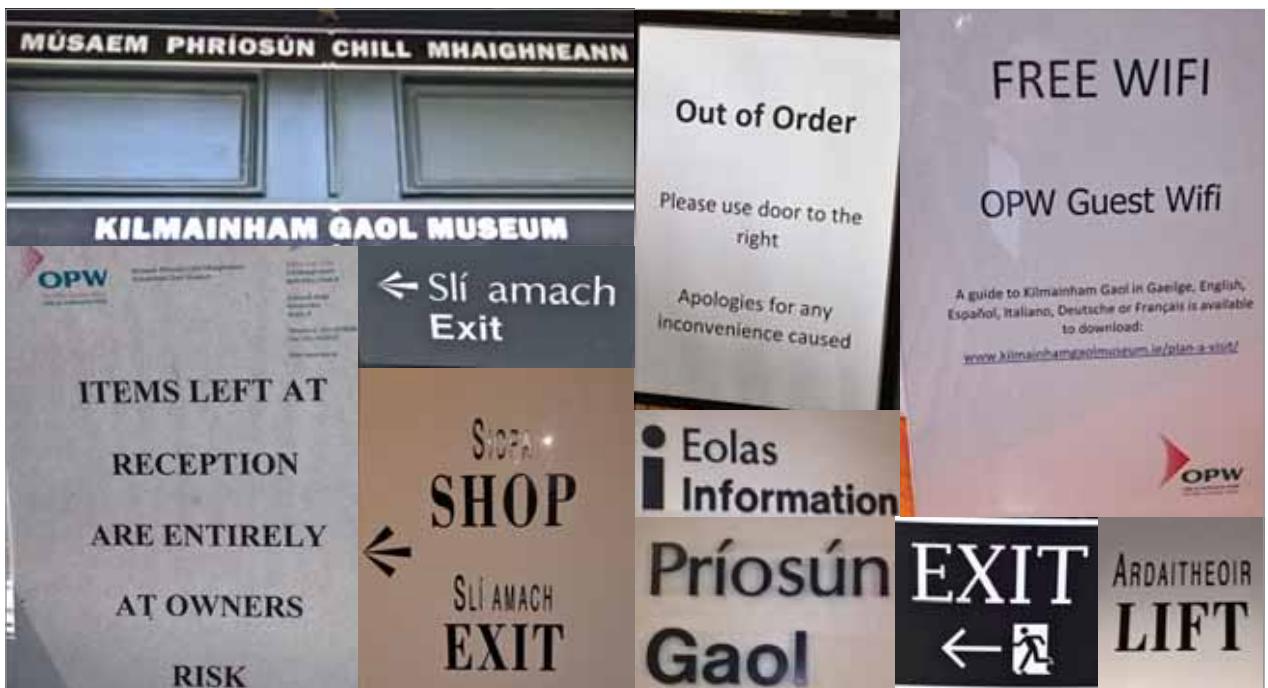
## Garraithe Náisiúnta na Lus | National Botanic Gardens



## Músaem na bPiarsach | Pearse Museum



Príosún Chill Mhaighneann | Kilmainham Goal



## Teach agus Eastát Farmleigh | Farmleigh House and Estate

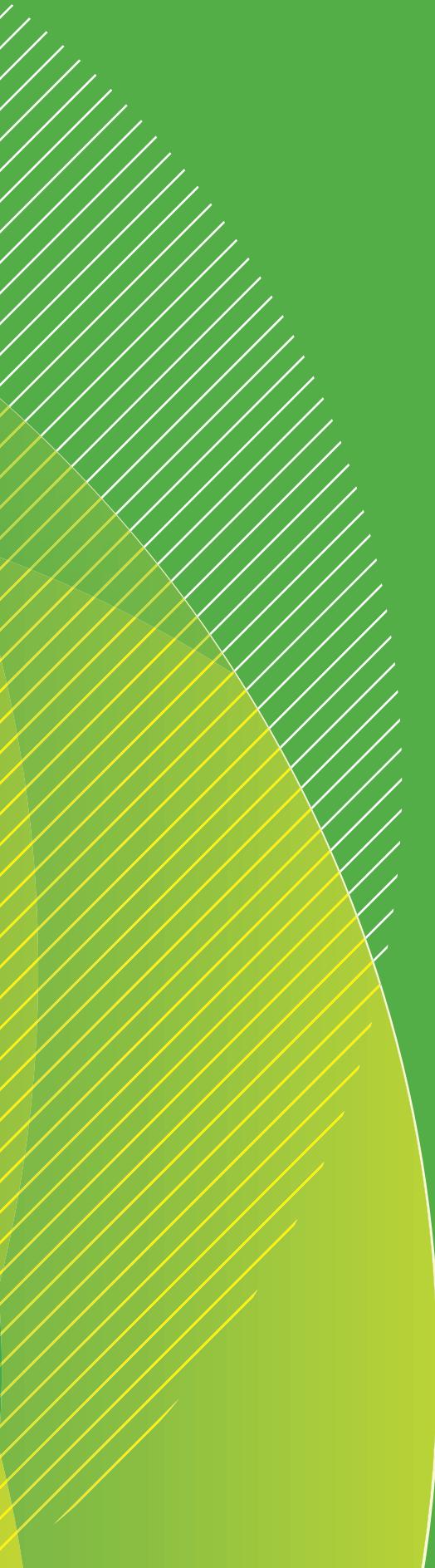


## Ionad Cuairteoirí Pháirc an Fhionnusce agus Caisleán Bhaile an Ásaigh Phoenix Park Visitor Centre – Ashtown Castle





Nótaí | Notes



**An Coimisinéir Teanga**  
An Spidéal, Gaillimh, Éire.  
H91 VK23  
091 504 006  
[eolas@coimisineir.ie](mailto:eolas@coimisineir.ie)  
[www.coimisinéir.ie](http://www.coimisinéir.ie)  
 @ceartateanga