

**TUARASCÁIL
FAIREACHÁIN**

**MONITORING
REPORT**

2020/21

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Tuarascáil ón gCoimisinéir Teanga faoi alt 30(3)
d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003.

*Report by An Coimisinéir Teanga in accordance with
section 30(3) of the Official Languages Act 2003.*

Achoimre 2020/21

Gníomhartha curtha i bhfeidhm ag **Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí** ar na ceithre láthair ar bronnadh rátaíl mhíshásúil orthu in 2019



Scrúdaíodh

4 Bhord Oideachais agus Oiliúna

i dtaca lena gcomhlíontacht leis na dualgais reachtúla atá orthu faoin Acht



Logainmneacha Gaeltachta i mBéarla fós á n-úsáid ag Eircode chomh maith leis na leaganacha oifigiúla Gaeilge. Ciallaíonn sé seo go bhfuil **leaganacha Béarla á n-úsáid go minic** mar réamhshocrú ag gnólachtaí tráchtála



Ní mór do chomhlachtaí poiblí a chinntiú go bhfuil **líon leordhóthanach comhaltaí foirne**



acu chun a ngealltanais scéime teanga

agus a ndualgais dhíreacha a chomhlíonadh

Easpa rannpháirtíochta ó 5 údarás áitiúla

i leith a gcuid dualgas reachtúil faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla



Faireachán déanta

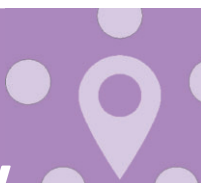
ar chur i bhfeidhm mholtaí imscrúduithe na bliana 2019



Bhain

40%

de na húdarais áitiúla an tríú grád amach – comhlíonadh den chuid is mó – i gcás suíomhanna gréasáin



An grád is airde (comhlíonadh iomlán) bainte amach ag **Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chiarraí** in earnáil na mBord Oideachais



Tuarascáil faoin **soláthar**

Gardaí le Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht leagtha faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais



Overview of 2020/21

Actions have been taken by the **Office of Public Works** at the four sites that were rated as unsatisfactory in 2019



4 Education and Training Boards

were examined in relation to their compliance with their statutory obligations under the Act



Gaeltacht place names continue to be used in English by Eircode as well as the official Irish language versions. This means that the **English versions are often used** by default by commercial companies



Public bodies must ensure that **a sufficient number of staff**



is available to fulfil their

language scheme commitments and direct obligations

Lack of engagement from 5 local authorities

regarding their statutory obligations under the Official Languages Act



Monitoring carried out

on the implementation of recommendations for investigations concluded in 2019



40%

of the local authorities achieved the third highest grade – compliant for the most part – with regard to their websites



Kerry Education and Training Board

achieved the highest Grade among the Education and Training Boards, achieving full compliance



A report regarding the **low number of Irish-speaking Gardaí in the Gaeltacht**



laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas

RÉAMHRÁ

Feidhm nua

Mheabhraigh mé sa Tuarascáil Faireacháin anuraidh nach gceadaítear dom ach faireachán a dhéanamh ar fhorálacha a bhaineann le hAcht na Teangacha Oifigiúla agus go mba chóir aghaidh a thabhairt air seo agus Bille nua na dTeangacha Oifigiúla á achtú. Is dea-scéala é go bhfuil cinneadh déanta ag an Rialtas glacadh le mo mholadh agus feidhm bhreise a bhronnadh ar an gCoimisinéir Teanga chun faireachán réamhghníomhach a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm aon fhorálacha a bhaineann le stádas nó le húsáid teanga oifigiúla atá in aon achtachán eile amhail an tAcht Oideachais, 1998, an tAcht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000 agus an tAcht Craolacháin, 2009. Tabharfaidh a leithéid d'fhoráil, má ghlactar le leasú an Rialtais agus an Bille nua á achtú, scóip i bhfad níos leithne don Oifig iniúchadh mion a dhéanamh ar an gcaoi a bhfuil comhlachtaí poiblí ábhartha ag tabhairt feidhm do na dualgais reachtúla teanga atá orthu, lasmuigh d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

Cúlra

Ar cheann de na cúraimí atá leagtha ag Tithe an Oireachtais orm faoi láthair mar Choimisinéir Teanga tá faireachán a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Is cuid lárnach d'obair na hOifige é mar go dtugann sé deis dom réimse dualgas atá ar chomhlachtaí poiblí faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla a iniúchadh as mo stuaim féin.

Díríodh cuid mhaith d'obair faireacháin na hOifige ar scéimeanna teanga roimh 2018. 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 chomhlachtaí 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 comhlachtaí poiblí na gealltanais a bhí tugtha acu ina scéimeanna teanga a chur i bhfeidhm.

Tugadh cuntas fianaisebhunaithe sa Tráchttaireacht ar Chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga a d'fhoilsigh mé in 2017, áfach, go bhfuil an córas sin fabhtach go hiomlán anois. Léiríodh sa tráchttaireacht nach bhfuiltear ag cur le seirbhísí stáit trí Ghaeilge ar aon bhealach córasach ná cuimsitheach de thoradh chóras na scéimeanna teanga. I bhfianaise an méid a léiríodh sa tráchttaireacht, chinn mé an próiseas faireacháin a bhí á fheidhmiú ag an Oifig a athrú agus tuilleadh d'acmhainní na hOifige a dhíriú i dtreo réimsí eile faireacháin seachas a bheith dírithe ar chóras na scéimeanna teanga go príomha.

An Garda Síochána

Thagair mé anuraidh freisin don aiféala mór a bhí orm nach raibh na moltaí uile curtha i bhfeidhm mar ba chóir ag an nGarda Síochána – moltaí a sonraíodh in imscrúdú a rinneadh in 2011. Bhain an t-imscrúdú le cur i bhfeidhm forálacha i

INTRODUCTION

New function

I reiterated in last year's Monitoring Report that legislation does not allow me to monitor any provision other than those of the Official Languages Act and that this should be dealt with as the new Official Languages Bill is enacted. I welcome the fact that the Government has decided to accept my recommendation and to bestow an added function on An Coimisinéir Teanga to proactively monitor any provision to do with

the status or use of an official language in other Acts such as the Education Act 1998, the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Broadcasting Act 2009. Such a provision, assuming the Government amendment is accepted when the Bill is enacted, will enhance the scope of the Office to investigate how the relevant public bodies are adhering to the language legislation requirements outside of the Official Languages Act.

Background

The responsibilities bestowed on me as An Coimisinéir Teanga by the Houses of the Oireachtas include the monitoring of the implementation of the Official Languages Act. This aspect of my duties is central to the work my Office carries out as it gives me the opportunity to monitor, of my own accord, the range of duties placed upon public bodies under the Official Languages Act.

Prior to 2018, the majority of the Office's monitoring was focused on language schemes. This was a sensible approach because the language schemes were the main mechanism used by the legislation to impose a legal obligation on public bodies to provide varied services in Irish. It was therefore essential that regular monitoring was carried out on public bodies to ascertain how they were implementing the commitments made in their language schemes.

An evidence-based account was given in the Commentary on the Language Scheme System, issued in 2017, on how this system is now completely flawed. The report showed that there was no systematic or comprehensive development of services provided in Irish as a result of the language scheme system. Arising from the findings made in that report I made the decision to change the monitoring process of the Office and to direct more of the Office's resources towards monitoring other areas instead of focusing primarily on the language schemes.

An Garda Síochána

I referred also last year to my regret that An Garda Síochána hadn't implemented all the recommendations from an investigation carried out in 2011. The investigation concerned the implementation of the provision in subsection 33(2) of the



bhfo-alt 33(2) d'Acht an Gharda Síochána ina sonraítear go bhfuil dualgas ar Choimisinéir an Gharda Síochána, a mhéid is indéanta, a chinntiú gur comhaltai den fhórsa atá líofa sa Ghaeilge a chuirtear ar dualgas i ndúiche ina bhfuil limistéar Gaeltachta.

In ainneoin cumarsáid ón nGarda Síochána ar an ábhar ó shin is léir nach bhfuil an dul chun cinn a mbeifí ag súil leis déanta maidir le moltaí an imscrúdaithe a chur i bhfeidhm. Go deimhin, tá céatadán na nGardaí le Gaeilge atá ar stáisiún sa Ghaeltacht níos ísle anois, de réir fhigiúirí an Gharda Síochána, ná mar a bhí aimsir an imscrúdaithe. Bheinn ag loiceadh ar an gcúram atá leagtha orm mar Choimisinéir Teanga gan tuarascáil ar an easpa cur i bhfeidhm a leagan faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais de réir an dualgais atá leagtha orm. Rinneadh sin in Aibreán 2021.

Obair faireacháin 2020

Tugtar cuntas sa tuarascáil seo ar an obair a cuireadh i gcrích i leith na réimsí oibre seo a leanas a sonraíodh mar thosaíochtaí faireacháin don bhliain 2020:

- Cur i bhfeidhm moltaí imscrúduithe
- Gealltanais teanga de chuid ceithre Bhord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
- Suíomhanna gréasáin na n-údarás áitiúil

Ní fhéadfaí iniúchadh a bhí beartaithe a dhéanamh ar úsáid na dteangacha oifigiúla ar chomharthaíocht ag suíomhanna oidhreacht a chomhlíonadh de thoradh srianta a bhain le Covid-19.

Grádú ar chomhlíonadh

Mar threoir don phróiseas iniúchta, baineann m'Oifig úsáid as critéir shoiléire chomhlíonta chun breithiúnas a dhéanamh ar ghrádú an chomhlíonta. Is iad na gráid a dtagraítear dóibh sa tuarascáil seo:

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

Focal buíochais

Is mór agamsa, agus ag foireann m'Oifige, an comhoibriú a chuir comhlachtaí poiblí ar fáil dúinn agus muid i mbun fiosruithe agus iniúchtaí faireacháin le linn 2020/21 – go mór mór agus srianta oibre Covid-19 i bhfeidhm.

Rónán Ó Domhnaill
An Coimisinéir Teanga

Garda Síochána Act which states that the Garda Commissioner shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that members of An Garda Síochána stationed in a district that includes a Gaeltacht area are sufficiently competent in the Irish language to enable them to use it when carrying out their duties.

In spite of communications from An Garda Síochána since then relating to this matter it is clear that the progress one would have expected hasn't materialised. Indeed, the percentage of Gardaí with Irish stationed in the Gaeltacht is lower now, according to figures from An Garda Síochána, than was the case when the investigation concluded. I would be failing in my duty as Coimisinéir Teanga if I didn't lay a report on this lack of progress before the Houses of the Oireachtas, in accordance with the obligation placed upon me. The report was submitted in April 2021.

Monitoring work 2020

This report provides an account of the work concluded during the year in the following categories, which were recognised as priorities for 2020:

- Implementation of the recommendations made in investigations
- Language commitments of four Education and Training Boards
- Websites of local authorities

The proposed audit on the use of the official languages on signage at heritage sites was discontinued due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Compliance grading

As a guide to the audit process, my Office uses clear compliance criteria to make adjudications regarding compliance grading. The grades referred to in this report are as follows:

- Full compliance
- Compliance for the most part
- Compliance to a certain degree
- Non-compliance for the most part
- Complete non-compliance

Acknowledgement

My officials and I greatly appreciate the cooperation provided to us by public bodies in the course of our monitoring and audit enquiries during 2020/21, especially with restrictions due to Covid-19 in place.

Rónán Ó Domhnaill
An Coimisinéir Teanga

COMHARTHAÍOCHT AG SUÍOMHANNA OIDHREACHTA

Iniúchadh 2019

Rinneadh iniúchadh in 2019 ar dheich láthair oidhreachta atá suite lasmuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath. Ar an iomlán scrúdaíodh 784 comhartha. Bhí leibhéal iomlán géilliúlachta 75% bainte amach ag na suíomhanna a scrúdaíodh, bunaithe ar 662 comhartha, nuair a beachtaíodh líon na gcomharthaí a tháinig faoi réir an iniúchta. Bhí leibhéal géilliúlachta 75% nó níos airde le brath i gcúig chinn de na deich suíomh a scrúdaíodh agus baineadh leibhéal géilliúlachta 100% amach i gCaisleán Chill Chainnigh. Bhí an leibhéal ab ísle géilliúlachta i dTeach Cogaidh an Ghorta Mhóir 1848 áit nach raibh ach 35% de na comharthaí a scrúdaíodh ag cloí leis na rialacháin.

Láithreacha a scrúdaíodh le linn na bliana 2019

- Ionad Cuairteoirí Bhrú na Bóinne (Sí an Bhrú agus Cnóbha)
- Ionad Cuairteoirí Chath na Bóinne
- Teamhair
- Carraig Phádraig
- Teach Cogaidh an Ghorta Mhóir 1848
- Caisleán Chill Chainnigh
- Crannlann agus Páirc Chuimhneacháin John F. Kennedy
- Caisleán Dhún Garbhán
- Ionad Cuairteoirí Ghleann Dá Loch
- Cluain Mhic Nóis

I ndiaidh dúinn an obair iniúchta a thabhairt chun críche, d'eisigh m'Oifig an leagan críochnúil den tuarascáil chuig Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí i mí Aibreáin 2020.

Ar an 27 Deireadh Fómhair 2020, tháinig tuairisc ó Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí (féach thíos) agus tugadh le fios go nglacann Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí le toradh an iniúchta. Cuireadh in iúl dúinn na gníomhartha atá curtha i bhfeidhm ar na ceithre láthair ar bronnadh rátáil mhíshásúil orthu in 2019. Is mór againn na gealltanais a thug Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí chun sáruihte aitheanta a réiteach.

SIGNAGE AT HERITAGE SITES

2019 Audit

An inspection was carried out at ten heritage sites located outside of Dublin in 2019. A total of 784 signs were examined. The sites inspected achieved an overall compliance level of 75%, based on 662 signs, when the number of signs subject to inspection was refined. Five of the ten sites examined achieved a compliance level of 75% or higher, with Kilkenny Castle achieving a 100% compliance level. The lowest level of compliance was in the Famine Warehouse 1848, where only 35% of the signs examined complied with the regulations.

Locations examined during 2019

- Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre (Newgrange and Knowth)
- Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre
- Hill of Tara
- Rock of Cashel
- Famine Warehouse 1848
- Kilkenny Castle
- John F. Kennedy Arboretum
- Dungarvan Castle
- Glendalough Visitor Centre
- Clonmacnoise

Following the completion of the audit work, my Office issued the final version of the report to the Office of Public Works in April 2020.

On 27 October 2020 we received a report from the Office of Public Works (see below). That report indicated that the Office of Public Works accepts the outcome of the audit and informed us of the actions taken at the four sites that were rated as unsatisfactory in 2019. We appreciate the commitments made by the Office of Public Works to address identified breaches.

Ionad Cuairteoirí Ghleann Dá Loch

Tugadh le fios gur baineadh anuas gach comhartha sealadach neamhghéilliúil agus go bhfuiltear den tuairim anois go bhfuil an suíomh géilliúil.



Glendalough Visitor Centre

It was reported that all temporary non-compliant signs that had been erected were removed immediately and that the site is now considered to be compliant.

Teamhair

Baineadh anuas gach comhartha sealadach neamhghéilliúil.



Hill of Tara

All non-compliant temporary signs were removed.

Cluain Mhic Nóis

Deimhníodh gur baineadh anuas gach comhartha sealadach neamhghéilliúil.



Clonmacnoise

Confirmation received that all non-compliant temporary signs were removed.

Teach Cogaidh an Ghorta Mhóir 1848

Tugadh le fios go raibh plean gnó 2021 á chur i dtoll a chéile agus go n-áireofaí leasú na gcomharthaí seo mar chuid den phlean úd. Dúradh go ndéanfaí na leasuithe faoi réir airgead a bheith ar fáil laistigh de shaolré an phlean.



Famine Warehouse 1848

It was stated that the 2021 business plan is currently being developed and that work on the correction of these signs will form part of that plan. The alterations will be subject to funding availability during the lifetime of the plan.

Gealltanais

Tá gealltanais tugtha ag Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí go mbeidh gach comhartha nua dátheangach feasta, ina n-áirítear comharthaí athsholáthair agus comharthaí sealadacha.

Commitment

The Office of Public Works has committed that all new signs in future will be bilingual; this includes replacement signs and temporary signs.

BOIRD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA



Achoimre

Bunaíodh an scátheagraíocht, Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna na hÉireann, faoin Acht um Boird Oideachais agus Oiliúna, 2013. Díscaoileadh Coistí Gairmoideachais na tíre agus tháinig 16 Bhord Oideachais agus Oiliúna réigiúnacha ar an bhfód ar an 1 Iúil 2013. Is é an phríomhaidhm atá acu ná oideachas, oiliúint agus obair don aos óg a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn sa tír. Tá sé riachtanach go gcomhlíonann na Boird a ndualgais reachtúla teanga, ní hamháin chun críche Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, ach lena chinntiú chomh maith go bhfeidhmíonn siad i gcomhréir le beartais an Stáit i leith na Gaeilge i réimse an oideachais.

Scrúdaíodh ceithre Bhord Oideachais agus Oiliúna féachaint an raibh na dualgais reachtúla atá orthu faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 á gcomhlíonadh acu.

- Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chiarraí
- Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí
- Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí
- Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Thiobraid Árann

Rinneadh iniúchadh ar na dualgais dhíreacha a shonraítear san Acht, ar dhualgais faoi na rialacháin i dtaca le comharthaíocht, stáiseanóireacht agus fógartú taifeadta béal agus ar ghealltanais reachtúla na scéimeanna teanga. Cé go bhfuil na dualgais chéanna ar gach comhlacht poiblí chomh fada is a bhaineann sé le dualgais dhíreacha faoin Acht agus dualgais faoi na rialacháin, is minic a bhíonn éagsúlachtaí le sonrú idir na gealltanais a thugtar sna scéimeanna teanga.

An dualgas reachtúil

Dualgais dhíreacha

Tá dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí cumarsáid i scríbhinn nó leis an bpost leictreonach i dteanga oifigiúil amháin a fhreagairt sa teanga chéanna. Caithfidh comhlachtaí poiblí a chinntiú chomh maith go bhfuil aon fhaisnéis atá á soláthar don phobal i gcoitinne nó d'aicme den phobal i gcoitinne, tríd an bpost nó go leictreonach, i nGaeilge amháin nó i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge. Ní mór do chomhlachtaí poiblí na doiciméid seo a leanas a fhoilsiú go comhuaineach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla:

- Aon doiciméad ina leagtar síos tograí beartais phoiblí;
- Aon tuarascáil bhliantúil;

EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARDS

Summary

An umbrella organisation, Education and Training Boards Ireland, was established under the Education and Training Boards Act 2013. The country's Vocational Education Committees were dissolved, and 16 regional Education and Training Boards were founded on 1 July 2013. Their principal objective is to promote the development of education, training and youthwork in Ireland. It is necessary that the Boards fulfil their statutory language obligations, not only for the purposes of the Official Languages Act, but also to ensure that they operate in accordance with the State's policy on the Irish language in the education sector.

This audit involved examining four Education and Training Boards in relation to their compliance with their statutory duties under the Official Languages Act 2003.

- Kerry Education and Training Board
- Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board
- Louth and Meath Education and Training Board
- Tipperary Education and Training Board

An audit was carried out on direct obligations specified in the Act, on obligations under the regulations in relation to signage, stationery and recorded oral announcements, and on statutory commitments made in language schemes. Although all public bodies have the same obligations pertaining to direct duties under the Act and requirements under the regulations, there are often disparities in the commitments given in various language schemes.

The statutory obligation

Direct obligations

Public bodies have an obligation to reply to communications, in writing or by electronic mail, in the official language in which the communication was received. Public bodies must also ensure that any information provided to the public in general or to a class of the public in general, through the post or electronically, is in Irish or in English and Irish. Public bodies must publish the following documents simultaneously in Irish and English:

- Any document setting out public policy proposals;
- Any annual report;

- Aon chuntais iniúchta nó ráitis airgeadais;
- Aon ráiteas straitéise atá déanta faoi alt 5 den Acht um Bainistíocht na Seirbhíse Poiblí, 1997;
- Aon doiciméad atá forordaithe mar go bhfuil tábhacht mhór phoiblí ag baint leis.

Na rialacháin

Sonraítear sna rialacháin go bhfuil dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí a gcuid stáiseanóireachta, a gcuid comharthaíochta agus a gcuid fógairtí taifeadta béal a sholáthar i nGaeilge amháin, nó i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge, faoi dhátaí áirithe. Tháinig na Boird Oideachais agus Oiliúna ar an bhfód ar an 1 Iúil 2013. Mar go raibh na rialacháin i bhfeidhm faoin tráth sin, bhí dualgas reachtúil ar na Boird iad a chur i bhfeidhm ón tús.

Scéimeanna teanga

Leagtar síos córas na scéimeanna teanga san Acht. Is féidir leis an Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán a iarraidh ar chomhlacht poiblí dréachtscéim teanga a ullmhú agus a chur faoi bhráid a Roinne taobh istigh de thréimhse sé mhí ón dáta iarratais. Tugann comhlachtaí poiblí gealltanais sa dréachtscéim i dtaca leis na seirbhísí a bheidh ar fáil i nGaeilge nó go dátheangach. Nuair a dhaingnítear an scéim, tá dualgas reachtúil ar an gcomhlacht poiblí na gealltanais a chur i bhfeidhm. Bíonn saolré trí bliana ag gach scéim teanga, cé go bhfanann sí i bhfeidhm nó go ndaingníonn an tAire scéim nua leis an gcomhlacht poiblí. Tá sé iarrtha ag an Aire ar gach Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna sa tír dréachtscéim teanga a ullmhú. Bhí scéim teanga daingnithe ag 12 Bhord Oideachais agus Oiliúna leis an Aire tráth foilsithe na tuarascála seo. Níor aontaíodh scéim teanga leis na ceithre Bhord Oideachais agus Oiliúna eile, in ainneoin iarratas ón Aire go gcuirfí dréachtscéim faoina bráid faoin 24 Feabhra 2014.

- Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna an Chabháin agus Mhuineacháin
- Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí
- Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath
- Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Cill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach

An obair iniúchta

Mar chéad chéim sa phróiseas iniúchta, eisíodh ceistneoir chuig na Boird Oideachais agus Oiliúna ábhartha i mí an Mheithimh 2020, ag lorg eolais faoi chur i bhfeidhm na míreanna éagsúla dá gcuid scéimeanna teanga agus dualgais dhíreacha an Achta. Cuireadh eolas cuimsitheach faoinár mbráid i dtaca le comhlíonadh na ndualgas agus sholáthair cuid de na Boird samplaí de stáiseanóireacht agus foirmeacha iarratais mar fhianaise. Rinneadh na freagraí agus an t-eolas uile a fuarthas a thástáil agus lorgaíodh eolas breise ó na Boird tar éis na dtástálacha sin.

- Any audited accounts or financial statements;
- Any statement of strategy prepared under section 5 of the Public Service Management Act 1997;
- Any document prescribed due to its major public importance.

The regulations

The regulations specify that public bodies must provide stationery, signage and recorded oral announcements in Irish only, or in English and Irish, by certain dates. The Education and Training Boards were established on 1 July 2013. As the regulations were in effect at that time, the Boards had a responsibility to implement them from the beginning.

Language schemes

The language scheme system is outlined in the Act. The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media requests that a public body prepare a draft language scheme and submit it to his or her Department within six months from the date of the request. Public bodies give commitments in the draft scheme in relation to the services which will be made available in Irish or bilingually. When the Minister confirms the scheme, the public body has a statutory duty to implement the commitments. Each scheme has a three year life cycle but remains in effect until the Minister confirms a new scheme for the public body. The Minister has requested all Education and Training Boards to prepare and submit a draft language scheme. At the time of publication of this report, the Minister had confirmed a language scheme with 12 Education and Training Boards. A language scheme has yet to be agreed with each of the other four Boards, despite the initial request for a draft scheme to be prepared by 24 February 2014.

- Cavan and Monaghan Education & Training Board
- Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board
- City of Dublin Education and Training Board
- Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board

The audit work

As a first step in the audit process, a questionnaire was issued to the relevant Education and Training Boards in June 2020, seeking information in regard to the implementation of various sections of their language schemes and the direct obligations under the Act. Comprehensive accounts in relation to the fulfilment of obligations were provided along with some samples of stationery and application forms as evidence. All the replies and information provided were assessed and further information was requested of the Boards after the assessments.

Príomhthorthaí

Socraíodh go bhféadfadh Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna ceann de chúig ghrád géilliúlachta a bhaint amach, bunaithe ar bhreithiúnas na hOifige seo ar an bhfaisnéis a cuireadh faoinár mbráid i dtaca le cur i bhfeidhm na ndualgas reachtúil. Ba é 1 an grád ab airde (comhlíonadh iomlán) agus 5 an grád ab ísle (neamh-chomhlíonadh iomlán) faoin gcóras seo; is marc foriomlán a bhí sa ghrád a bronnadh i ngach cás de thoradh an phróisis faireacháin in 2020.

Main outcomes

It was decided that an Education and Training Board could achieve one of five grades of compliance, based on my Office's judgement of the information submitted to it in relation to the implementation of the statutory obligations. The highest grade that could be awarded in this system was 1 (full compliance) and the lowest was 5 (complete non-compliance); in each case, the grade awarded was an overall mark, based on the various categories as a whole.

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna <i>Education and Training Board</i>	Scéim teanga a scrúdaíodh (i bhfeidhm ó) <i>Language scheme examined (in effect since)</i>	Leibhéal géilliúlachta <i>Level of compliance</i>
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chiarraí <i>Kerry Education and Training Board</i>	An Chéad Scéim (2016) <i>First Scheme (2016)</i>	Comhlíonadh Iomlán <i>Fully compliant</i>
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí <i>Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board</i>	An Dara Scéim (2020) <i>Second Scheme (2020)</i>	Comhlíonadh méid áirithe <i>Compliance to a certain degree</i>
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí <i>Louth and Meath Education and Training Board</i>	An Chéad Scéim (2015) <i>First Scheme (2015)</i>	Comhlíonadh méid áirithe <i>Compliance to a certain degree</i>
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Thiobraid Árann <i>Tipperary Education and Training Board</i>	An Chéad Scéim (2016) <i>First Scheme (2016)</i>	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Non-compliance for the most part</i>

Bhain Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chiarraí (BOO Chiarraí) an grád is airde amach in earnáil na mBord Oideachais agus Oiliúna agus grád 'comhlíonadh iomlán' á bhaint amach acu. Is léir go bhfuil acmhainní agus dua ar leith caite ag BOO Chiarraí ar mhaithe lena dhualgais faoi scáth Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 a chomhlíonadh.

Tá an dul chun cinn seo le sonrú go háirithe maidir leis an leibhéal géilliúlachta atá bainte amach ag BOO Chiarraí maidir le leagan cuimsitheach dá shuíomh gréasáin a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge mar aon le cur chuige córasach ar mhaithe le géilliúlacht a chinntiú maidir le comharthaíocht agus foilseacháin na heagraíochta. Le linn an iniúchta freisin ba léir go ndearnadh dul chun cinn ó thaobh ábhar i nGaeilge a chur ar fáil ar shuíomhanna gréasáin na nIonad Breisoideachais atá ag feidhmiú faoi scáth BOO Chiarraí, go háirithe mar a bhaineann sé leis an ábhar statach atá ar na suíomhanna gréasáin sin a bheith ar fáil i nGaeilge.

Maidir leis na BOOnna eile, tá idir mhaith is olc le sonrú san fheidhmiú. Grád 'comhlíonadh méid áirithe' a bronnadh ar BOO Lú agus na Mí agus ar BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí. Níor éirigh le BOO Thiobraid Árann ach grád 'neamhchomhlíonadh den chuid is mó' a thuilleamh.

Kerry Education and Training Board (Kerry ETB) achieved the highest Grade in the Education and Training Boards sector, achieving a grade of 'full compliance'. It is clear that Kerry ETB has dedicated considerable resources and effort in order to fulfil its obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003.

This progress is particularly reflected in the level of compliance achieved by Kerry ETB in providing a comprehensive version of its website in Irish as well as a systematic approach to ensuring compliance concerning the organisation's signage and publications. It also became apparent during the course of the audit that progress has been made in providing material in Irish on the websites of Further Education Centres operating under the auspices of Kerry ETB, particularly as regards the availability in Irish of the static content of these websites.

Regarding the other ETBs, it is clear that the performance has been much more mixed. A grade of 'compliance to a certain degree' was awarded to Louth & Meath ETB and to Laois & Offaly ETB, with Tipperary ETB only managing to achieve a grade of 'non-compliance for the most part'.

Dualgais dhíreacha faoin Acht

Cumarsáid i scríbhinn – comhfhreagras

Chruthaigh BOO Chiarraí agus BOO Lú agus na Mí go maith den chuid is mó san fhochatagóir seo. Maidir le BOO Chiarraí, tá Oifigeach Gaeilge fostaithe ag an eagraíocht agus tugann an té sin tacaíocht i gcásanna ina mbíonn freagra le tabhairt as Gaeilge ar chumarsáid i scríbhinn sa teanga sin. Tráthanna a mbíonn an tOifigeach Gaeilge as láthair (ar saoire srl) tá socruithe i bhfeidhm go nglacann baill foirne eile leis na cúraimí teanga sin nó go dtéitear i muinín gnólachtaí aistriúcháin tráchtála. Dearbhaíodh go dtugtar freagra chomh tapa as Gaeilge sna cásanna seo agus a thugtar as Béarla.

I gcás BOO Lú agus na Mí is le tacaíocht ó ghnólacht aistriúcháin tráchtála a dhéileáiltear le cumarsáid i scríbhinn ó dhaoine den phobal. De bharr bearnaí san oiliúint foirne i scríobh na Gaeilge (agus an eagraíocht ag brath ar ghnólacht seachtrach), admhaíodh gurb amhlaidh a fhágann na socruithe atá i bhfeidhm go mbíonn moill ar chomhfhreagras a fhreagairt as Gaeilge i gcomparáid leis an mBéarla. Mar sin féin, tá an eagraíocht ag tabhairt aghaidh ar na bearnaí oiliúna, agus 13 bhall foirne de chuid na heagraíochta tar éis clárú do Theastas sa Ghaeilge Ghairmiúil. Luadh an oiliúint seo freisin mar chuid d'iarachtaí an Bhoird i réimse na teicneolaíochta faisnéise agus cumarsáide.

Maidir le BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí, tugadh le fios go bhfuil próiseas i bhfeidhm lena gcuirtear aon teagmháil as Gaeilge ar aghaidh chuig Oifigeach Gaeilge na heagraíochta nuair nach mbíonn aon bhall foirne eile sa scoil, ionad nó oifig in ann plé go sásúil trí Ghaeilge leis an ábhar. Tugadh le fios chomh maith go bhfuil seoladh ríomhphoist ar leith ann chun tacú le teagmháil trí Ghaeilge a dhéanamh leis an mBord. De thoradh na socruithe seo, deir an eagraíocht go bhfuil ar a cumas déileáil le comhfhreagras as Gaeilge chomh pras le cumarsáid as Béarla. Nuair a lorgaíodh soiléiriú i dtaobh na socruithe atá i bhfeidhm le haghaidh tréimhsí nach mbíonn an tOifigeach Gaeilge ar fáil chun déileáil le comhfhreagras trí Ghaeilge, tugadh le fios, sa chás nach mbíonn an tOifigeach Gaeilge ar fáil, go gcuirtear an comhfhreagras chuig baill foirne i gColáiste Dhún Másc.

Ba ag BOO Thiobraid Árann ba dhoiléire a bhí an scéal maidir leis an bhfochatagóir seo. Tugadh le fios nach bhfuil aon chóras i bhfeidhm ag an eagraíocht chun deimhin a dhéanamh de go bhfreagraítear cumarsáid i nGaeilge, agus nach féidir faireachán a dhéanamh ar an dualgas toisc go n-oibríonn an fhoireann in áiteanna éagsúla ar fud an chontae. Ina ainneoin sin, dúirt an Bord go bhfuil sé in ann freagra a thabhairt ar chumarsáid i nGaeilge chomh pras le freagra ar chumarsáid i mBéarla; níor míníodh conas a dhéantar é sin, áfach. Dúradh freisin gur mheabhraigh an fhoireann bainistíochta sinsearaí do gach scoil agus ionad a thagann faoi scáth an chomhlachta phoiblí na dualgais atá le comhlíonadh maidir le comhfhreagras a fhaghtear i nGaeilge a fhreagairt i nGaeilge.

Direct duties under the Act

Written communication – correspondence

Kerry ETB and Louth & Meath ETB performed well to a large extent in this subcategory. As regards Kerry ETB, the organisation employs an Irish Language Officer who provides support in cases where a written communication in that language is to be answered in Irish. When the Irish Language Officer is absent (on leave etc) arrangements are in place for other staff to undertake these linguistic tasks or for commercial translation companies to be used. It has been confirmed that responses in Irish in these cases are provided as quickly as they are given in English.

Written communications from members of the public to Louth & Meath ETB are handled with the support of a commercial translation company. It was acknowledged that due to gaps in Irish language writing skills among staff (with the organisation relying on an external company), the arrangements in place mean that there is a delay in responding to correspondence in Irish compared to English. However, the organisation is addressing these training gaps, with 13 staff members from the organisation having registered for a Certificate in Professional Irish. This training was also mentioned as part of the Board's efforts in the area of information and communication technology.

Regarding Laois & Offaly ETB, it was indicated that a process is in place whereby any contact in Irish is referred to the organisation's Irish Language Officer when no other staff member in the school, centre or office is able to deal satisfactorily with the matter through Irish. It was also stated that a specific email address is in place to support contact through Irish with the Board. As a result of these arrangements, the organisation says that it is capable of dealing with correspondence in Irish as promptly as in English. When clarification was sought as to the arrangements in place for periods when the Irish Language Officer is not available to deal with correspondence in Irish, it was stated that when the Irish Language Officer is unavailable, that such correspondence is sent to staff members in Dunamase College.

The situation of Tipperary ETB was quite vague regarding this subcategory. The organisation stated it has no system in place to ensure that a communication in Irish is responded to, and that this obligation cannot be monitored because staff operate in different locations throughout the county. Nevertheless, the Board stated that it is in a position to respond to a communication in Irish as promptly as that of a communication in English; however, how this is achieved was not explained. It was also stated that senior management staff had reminded all schools and centres of the organisation of the obligations to be complied within in relation to responding in Irish to correspondence received in that language.

Cumarsáid i scríbhinn leis an bpobal i gcoitinne nó le haicme den phobal i gcoitinne

Maidir leis an ngné seo den chumarsáid, bhí roinnt doiléireachta ann ar thaobh BOO Chiarraí, mar ar tugadh Straitéis Oideachais agus Oiliúna 2018-2022, Plean Seirbhíse 2018, Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Straitéis TFC mar shamplaí de ghníomhaíochtaí san aicme sin. Cé gur dearbhaíodh go ndearnadh an chumarsáid sin sna cásanna sin i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla, is le catagóir na bhfoilseachán a bhaineann an ghníomhaíocht sin ó cheart. Níor tugadh aon sampla eile de chumarsáid i scríbhinn leis an bpobal i gcoitinne nó le haicme den phobal i gcoitinne, rud a thabharfadh le fios go mb'fhéidir go bhfuil míthuiscint ar an eagraíocht faoin mbrí atá leis an ngné sin de na dualgais reachtúla. Bhí an cás amhlaidh ó thaobh BOO Lú agus na Mí, agus leathanaigh ghréasáin a bhain le foilseacháin, baill an Bhoird (a bhfuil an leagan Gaeilge de easpach) agus foilseacháin luaite ag an eagraíocht faoin bhfochatagóir seo, cé gur dhearbhaigh an eagraíocht freisin go mbaintear úsáid as ardáin de chuid na meán sóisialta; níor tugadh samplaí sonracha de seo, áfach. Luadh foirm a bhaineann le cead rochtain a fháil ar fhoirgnimh de chuid na heagraíochta chomh maith sa chomhthéacs seo; arís, ní thagann sé seo go díreach faoin bhfochatagóir seo toisc nach cumarsáid dhíreach (ghníomhach) leis an bpobal ná le haicme den phobal atá i gceist. Thug BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí agus BOO Thiobraid Árann araon le fios nár thionscain siad cumarsáid dhíreach leis an bpobal ná le haicme den phobal in 2018, 2019 ná in 2020.

Foilseacháin

Is cúis imní don Oifig seo é go raibh bearnaí le sonrú ar chur i bhfeidhm an bhunriachtanais de chuid an Achta go bhfoilseofaí doiciméid áirithe go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla, in ainneoin gur gné sheanbhunaithe de na dualgais reachtúla í seo. Cé gur léirigh na ceithre BOO go bhfuil an cleachtas an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil a fhoilsiú go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla daingnithe go maith, den chuid is mó, b'ábhar suntais go raibh moill 11 mhí idir foilsiú an leagain Gaeilge de Thuarascáil Bhliantúil na bliana 2018 ag BOO Lú agus na Mí le hais an leagain Béarla.

Bhí an fheidhmíocht i measc na BOOnna ní ba mhícháilúla i gcás na Ráiteas Airgeadais; ba é BOO Chiarraí an t-aon chomhlacht a léirigh gur fhoilsigh sé an Ráiteas Airgeadais/Cuntais Bhliantúla go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Bhí moill shuntasach ar fhoilsiú ag leagain Gaeilge le tabhairt faoi deara i gcás BOO Lú agus na Mí agus BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí. Mhínigh BOO Lú agus na Mí gur 'dearmad' ba chúis leis an bhfaillí seo i gcás na heagraíochta sin. I gcás BOO Thiobraid Árann, cé gur gealladh don Oifig seo go bhfoilseofaí cuntais 2018 agus 2019 as Gaeilge, ní léir, agus an tuarascáil seo á foilsiú, gur cuireadh é sin i gcrích go fóill.

Chruthaigh BOO Chiarraí go maith ó thaobh foilseacháin ina raibh tograí beartais phoiblí a fhoilsiú go comhuaineach sa dá theanga; luadh go sonracha Straitéis Oideachais agus Oiliúna

Communication in writing with the general public or a class of the general public

In relation to this aspect of communication, there was a degree of ambiguity on the part of Kerry ETB, as the Education and Training Strategy 2018-2022, the Service Plan 2018, the Annual Report and the ICT Strategy were given as examples of activities in that category. Although communication in both Irish and English has been confirmed in these cases, such activity pertains more accurately to the publications category. No other examples of written communication to the general public or a class of the general public were provided, which suggests a possible misunderstanding on the part of the organisation as to the meaning of this aspect of the statutory duties. A similar situation existed in relation to Louth & Meath ETB, with web pages relating to publications, members of the Board (the Irish language version of which was deficient) and publications were listed under this subcategory, although the organisation also confirmed that it uses social media platforms; specific examples of this were not, however, provided. An access permission form relating to entry into buildings of the organisation was also mentioned in this context; again, this does not fall directly into this subcategory because it is not a direct (active) communication to the public or a class of the public. Laois & Offaly ETB and Tipperary ETB indicated that they did not initiate any direct communication with the public or a class of the public in 2018, 2019 or 2020.

Publications

My Office is concerned that gaps were identified in the implementation of the basic requirement of the Act that certain documents be published simultaneously in both official languages, despite the fact that this is an established element of the statutory obligations. While the four ETBs indicated that the practice of publishing the Annual Report simultaneously in both official languages is well established for the most part, it was a matter of some note that the publication of the Irish version of its 2018 Annual Report by Louth & Meath ETB was delayed by 11 months compared to the version in English.

The performance of the ETBs was more unsatisfactory in relation to their Financial Statements; Kerry ETB was the only body to demonstrate that it simultaneously published the Annual Financial Statement/Accounts in both official languages. The publication of the Irish language version was significantly delayed in the case of Louth & Meath ETB and Laois & Offaly ETB. Louth & Meath ETB explained that this failure was due to an 'error' on its part. In the case of Tipperary ETB, although it had made a commitment to my Office that the 2018 and 2019 accounts would be published in Irish, at the time of this report's publication it is not clear that has yet been realised.

Kerry ETB performed well in publishing publications containing public policy proposals simultaneously in both languages; the Education and Training Strategy 2018-2022,

2018-2022, Plean Seirbhíse 2018, Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Straitéis TFC. D'fhoilsigh BOO Laois agus Uíbh Fhailí Réamheolaire ar Chúrsaí Breisoideachais agus Oiliúna i mBéarla i dtosach agus i nGaeilge ina dhiaidh sin.

Dualgais faoi na rialacháin

Comharthaíocht

D'admhaigh na BOOnna go léir go bhfuil dul chun cinn le déanamh go fóill acu chun na dualgais atá orthu i ndáil le comharthaíocht a chomhlíonadh go hiomlán. Tá próiseas chun iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar a gcuid comharthaíochta ar bun cheana, nó le cur ar bun i rith 2021, ag na ceithre BOO cé nach bhfuil dáta chun an obair sin a thabhairt chun críche tugtha i ngach cás. I gcás dhá cheann de na BOOnna, tá an obair sin á comhordú ag an Oifigeach Gaeilge atá fostaithe acu. Bhí na BOOnna in ann samplaí de chomharthaíocht ghéilliúil nó neamhghéilliúil a chur ar fáil don Oifig seo i gcásanna áirithe; i gcásanna eile dúradh gur tháinig srianta na géarchéime sláinte salach ar chumas an chomhlachta é sin a dhéanamh.

Gheall BOO Chiarraí agus BOO Lú agus na Mí go mbeadh bailchríoch roimh dheireadh 2021 ar an obair atá ar siúl acu chun comharthaí neamhghéilliúla a chur ina gceart. Chuige sin, tá tús curtha ag BOO Lú agus na Mí le próiseas tairisceana poiblí a mbeidh de thoradh air tríú páirtí a fhostú ar conradh chun comharthaíocht nua a sholáthar. Tugann an Oifig seo dá haire, áfach, gur gheall BOO Lú agus na Mí roimhe seo, in 2018, comharthaíocht a uasghrádú ina scoileanna chun iad a thabhairt i gcomhréir leis na rialacháin, agus nár comhlíonadh an gealltanas sin.

Tá BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí le tabhairt faoi phróiseas tairisceana poiblí chomh maith chun comharthaí nua a bheidh i gcomhréir leis na rialacháin a chur in ionad na gcomharthaí neamhghéilliúla; an tOifigeach nuacheaptha Gaeilge san eagraíocht atá leis an obair sin a chomhordú. Tugadh le fios gurb é deireadh na bliana 2021 an spriocdháta faoina gceartófar na comharthaí nach bhfuil ag teacht leis na rialacháin. Chuir BOO Thiobraid Árann samplaí dá chuid comharthaíochta ar fáil don Oifig seo; cé go raibh roinnt de na comharthaí i gcomhréir leis na rialacháin, i gcásanna áirithe bhí comharthaí ina raibh an téacs i mBéarla amháin, 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. Is cosúil gur trí eolas faoi na rialacháin a scaipeadh ar bhainisteoirí ionaid/príomhoidí áitiúla a déileáladh leis an dualgas dlíthiúil go dtí seo, ach ní cosúil gur cuireadh aon phróiseas córasach/lárnach i bhfeidhm chun géilliúlacht a dheimhniú. Deir BOO Thiobraid Árann go bhfuil an eagraíocht le hiniúchadh córasach a dhéanamh ar an ábhar sa dara ráithe de 2021. Mar sin féin, ní léir don Oifig seo go bhfuil aon spriocdháta cinnte leagtha síos ag an eagraíocht chun an próiseas sin a thabhairt chun críche.

the Service Plan 2018, the Annual Report and the ICT Strategy were specifically mentioned. Laois and Offaly ETB published a Prospectus on Further Education and Training Courses in English originally and subsequently in Irish.

Obligations under the regulations

Signage

All ETBs acknowledged that they need to make further progress to fully fulfil their obligations in relation to signage. The four ETBs either have a process in place already to audit their signage or such a process is to be established during 2021, although a completion date has not been indicated in all cases. In the case of two of the ETBs, this work is being coordinated by the organisation's Irish Language Officer. The ETBs were able to provide my Office with examples of compliant or non-compliant signage in certain cases; in other cases the restrictions of the health emergency were cited as hampering the body's ability to do so.

Kerry ETB and Louth & Meath ETB committed to completing their work to correct uncompliant signs by the end of 2021. To this end, Louth & Meath ETB has begun a public procurement process which will result in a third party being contracted to provide new signage. My Office notes, however, that in 2018 Louth & Meath ETB undertook to upgrade signs in its schools to bring them into compliance with the regulations, and that this undertaking was not fulfilled.

Laois & Offaly ETB is also to undergo a public procurement process to replace non-compliant signs with new signage to comply with the regulations; the newly-appointed Irish Language Officer within the organisation is to coordinate this work. It was stated that the end of 2021 is the target for amending those signs not in compliance with the regulations. Tipperary ETB provided this Office with examples of its signage; while some of the signs were in conformity with the regulations, other signs contained text in English only; further signs in use were largely bilingual but did not fully comply with the requirements of the regulations as regards the text in Irish. Heretofore, the legal obligation appears to have been dealt with by informing local centre managers/principals of the regulations, but no systematic/central process to ensure compliance appears to have been put in place. Tipperary ETB says the organisation is to carry out a systematic audit of the matter in the second quarter of 2021. However, it is not clear to my Office that any clear deadline has been set by the organisation for completion of this process.

Stáiseanóireacht

Bhí BOO Chiarraí agus BOO Thiobraid Árann in ann a léiriú don iniúchadh go raibh gnéithe dá gcuid stáiseanóireachta sásúil – chuir siad samplaí ar fáil de dhuillín dea-mhéine agus/nó de pháipéar ceannchlóite a bhí géilliúil do na rialacháin ábhartha. Bhí an cas amhlaidh i gcás BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí i gcás an chomhlachta phoiblí féin, ach gur dúradh go raibh páipéar nótaí agus duillín dea-mhéine dá gcuid féin in úsáid ag scoileanna agus ionaid ar leith. Tugadh le fios go bhfuil sé beartaithe ag an mBord athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar shamplaí díobh seo agus cinn nua a chur ar fáil in aon chás nach bhfuil an stáiseanóireacht ag cloí le riachtanais na rialachán. Tugadh le fios go gceartófar an stáiseanóireacht nach bhfuil ag teacht leis na rialacháin faoi dheireadh na bliana 2021.

Maidir le BOO Lú agus na Mí, tugadh le fios go bhfuil ceannteidil ar stáiseanóireacht ag cloí le riachtanais na rialachán. Cuireadh sampla ar fáil de dhuillín dea-mhéine agus de pháipéar ceannchlóite, agus cé go raibh eilimintí dátheangacha ag baint leis an ábhar ní raibh siad ag teacht go hiomlán leis na rialacháin. Tá gealltanas tugtha ag an mBord don Oifig seo go mbeidh stáiseanóireacht uile na heagraíochta géilliúil faoin 30 Meitheamh 2021 agus is mór againn an comhoibriú ina thaobh seo.

Fógairtí taifeadta béil

Tearc go leor a bhí an fhianaise go bhfuil na riachtanais a bhaineann le fógairtí taifeadta béil á gcomhlíonadh go sásúil mar a éilítear faoi na rialacháin. I gcás BOO Chiarraí, dearbhaíodh tríd an bpróiseas iniúchta go bhfuil na fógairtí taifeadta béil uile ag comhlíonadh na rialachán. I gcás BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí bhí an eagraíocht in ann a chruthú go raibh fógairtí taifeadta béil ag feidhmiú de réir na rialachán in oifig riaracháin amháin dá chuid (Tulach Mhór). Cé go ndúirt an eagraíocht go raibh rún aici athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar gach fógairt taifeadta béil i scoileanna/in ionaid nuair a osclófar iad tar éis shaoire an tsamhraidh i mbliana agus uasghrádú a dhéanamh ar fhógairtí nach bhfuil ag cloí le riachtanais na rialachán, níor fhéad sí aon fhaisnéis bheacht a thabhairt don Oifig seo nuair a iarradh sonraí i dtaobh na n-ionad ina raibh an obair sin le cur i gcrích.

Thug BOO Lú agus na Mí le fios go roinntear eolas ar phríomhoidí agus ar chomhordaitheoirí maidir leis na ceanglais agus go dtugtar treoir dóibh iad a chomhlíonadh, ach níor tugadh aon fhianaise lena chois sin go bhfuil na riachtanais á gcomhlíonadh go dearfa. Dhearbhaigh BOO Thiobraid Árann go bhfuil na riachtanais i dtaobh na bhfógairtí taifeadta béil á gcomhlíonadh aige. Mar sin féin, nuair a lorg an Oifig seo sonraí breise d'aon iniúchadh a rinneadh go dtí seo, dúirt an eagraíocht go gcuirfí san áireamh iad mar chuid den iniúchadh atá beartaithe agus go dtabharfaí aghaidh ar aon neamh-chomhlíonadh an tráth sin, rud a thabharfadh le tuiscint go n-admhaíonn an comhlacht poiblí go bhféadfadh bearnaí a bheith sa chomhlíonadh mar a sheasann cúrsaí anois.

Stationery

Kerry ETB and Tipperary ETB were able to demonstrate to the audit that elements of their stationery were satisfactory – they provided examples of complimentary slips and/or headed paper that were compliant with the relevant regulations. This was the case also for Laois & Offaly ETB regarding the public body itself, but it also stated that certain schools and centres use their own notepaper and complimentary slips. The Board says it intends reviewing samples of these and to replace any stationery that does not comply with the requirements of the regulations. We were advised that non-compliant stationery will be rectified by the end of 2021.

Louth & Meath ETB explained to us that its headed stationery is in compliance with the requirements of the regulations. Samples of complimentary slips and headed paper were provided, and although these materials contained bilingual elements, they did not conform fully to the regulations. The Board has committed to my Office that all the organisation's stationery will be compliant by 30 June 2021 and we appreciate this cooperation.

Recorded oral announcements

Evidence of satisfactory compliance with the requirements regarding recorded oral announcements, as required by the regulations, has been somewhat mixed. In the case of Kerry ETB, the audit process confirmed that all recorded oral announcements are in compliance with the regulations. Laois & Offaly ETB was able to demonstrate that recorded oral announcements were operating in accordance with the regulations in one of its administrative offices (Tullamore). While the organisation stated that it intends reviewing all recorded oral announcements in schools/centres upon their reopening after the summer holidays this year and upgrading announcements that do not comply with the requirements of the regulations, it did not provide this Office with any precise information when we requested details of the locations where this work was to be carried out.

Louth & Meath ETB indicated that information on the requirements is provided to principals and coordinators and that they are instructed to comply with these, but no evidence was provided that the requirements are actually met. Tipperary ETB confirmed that it is fulfilling the requirements for recorded oral announcements. However, when my Office sought further details of any audit carried out so far, the organisation stated that this would be included as part of its proposed audit and that any non-compliance would be addressed at that time; this implies that the public body acknowledges that gaps may exist in its compliance as matters stand.

Dualgais faoi Scéimeanna Teanga

Gealltanais scéime teanga

Daingníodh gach scéim teanga ab ábhar don iniúchadh seo sa tréimhse idir 2015 agus 2020 agus ba chéadscéimeanna iad ar fad, cé is moite de scéim teanga Bhord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí. Cuireadh tús leis an iniúchadh i mí an Mheithimh 2020. Léirítear sa tábla thíos an chomóntacht a bhí le brath idir bunábhair na ngealltanais a tugadh sna scéimeanna éagsúla ach bhí cuid mhaith éagsúlachtaí i gceist leis na sonraíochtaí a bhain leo.

Obligations under Language Schemes

Language scheme commitments

All of the language schemes analysed in this audit were confirmed during the period between 2015 and 2020, and each of them was a first scheme, except for Laois and Offaly ETB where a second scheme is in effect. The audit began in June 2020. The table below highlights the commonality that was evident in the fundamental elements of the commitments made in the language schemes although there was a good deal of variation in the specifics of the commitments.

Gealltanais tugtha i dtaca le... Commitment made in relation to...	BOO Chiarraí Kerry ETB	BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí Laois and Offaly ETB	BOO Lú agus na Mí Louth and Meath ETB	BOO Thiobraid Árann Tipperary ETB
Fáiltiú / lasc-chlár Reception / switchboard	•	•	•	•
Seirbhísí aghaidh ar aghaidh Face to face services	•	•	•	
Cumarsáid ghutháin Telephone communications	•	•		
Fógraí beo Live announcements	•			
Foirmeacha iarratais Application forms	•	•	•	•
Bileoga eolais Information leaflets	•			•
Bróisiúir Brochures	•			•
Preaseisiúintí Press releases	•	•	•	•
Urlabhraithe Gaeilge do na meáin Irish language spokespersons for media	•	•	•	•
Óráidí / aithisc Speeches / addresses	•	•	•	•
Seoladh ríomhphoist d'fhiosrúcháin as Gaeilge Email addresses for Irish language enquiries		•		
Ábhar statach ar an suíomh gréasáin Static content on website	•			•
Córais ríomhaireachta agus seirbhísí idirghníomhacha Computer systems and interactive services	•	•	•	•
Scéim teanga sa phacáiste ionductúcháin Language scheme in induction pack	•	•	•	•
Áiseanna agus deiseanna le hinniúlacht na foirne sa Ghaeilge a fhorbairt Resources and opportunities for staff to develop their competence in Irish	•	•	•	•
Poist shainithe Ghaeilge Designated Irish language posts	•	•	•	•
Oifigí Gaeltachta Gaeltacht offices	•		•	
Cruinnithe poiblí Public meetings	•		•	
Faireachán agus athbhreithniú ar an scéim Monitoring and review of the scheme	•	•	•	•

Cumarsáid leis an bpobal

D'éirigh le BOO Chiarraí a chruthú don phróiseas faireacháin go raibh a chuid gealltanais faoina scéim teanga i dtaca le cumarsáid nó teagmháil leis an bpobal á gcomhlíonadh go sásúil aige. Samplaí de seo is ea go bhfuil deichniúr ball foirne ainmnithe san eagraíocht atá in ann seirbhís as Gaeilge a chur ar fáil, go dtugtar le fios do chustaiméirí go bhfuil seirbhís trí Ghaeilge ar fáil nuair a fhreagraítear an guthán, agus go bhfuil beannuithe pearsanta réamhthaifeadta gutháin na mball foirne i bhfoirm dhátheangach.

Ar leathanach baile an tsuímh gréasáin (sonraí teagmhála/contact details), treoraítear an pobal le ceisteanna i nGaeilge nó faoin nGaeilge chuig oifigeachgaeilge@boochiarraí.ie. Anuas air sin, tá foirmeacha iarratais na heagraíochta dátheangach agus tús áite tugtha don Ghaeilge, agus dearbhaíodh go mbaintear úsáid as ainm an chomhlachta phoiblí as Gaeilge agus as Béarla agus in ainmneacha scoileanna agus ionad. Cuirtear bróisiúir agus bileoga eolais ar fáil as Gaeilge nuair a bhaineann siad go sonrach leis an nGaeltacht nó le hócáidí faoi leith.

Bhí comhlíonadh na ngealltanais scéime teanga ní ba laige i gcás na BOO na eile, go háirithe ó thaobh seirbhísí fáiltithe nó gutháin. Theip ar BOO Lú agus na Mí agus ar BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí a chruthú go gcuirtear seirbhís deisce fáiltithe/cuntair a chur ar fáil as Gaeilge. Dúirt BOO Lú agus na Mí go mbíonn deacraíochtaí acu ó thaobh earcaíochta agus iad i dtuilleamaí comhaltaí foirne ó ghníomhaireachtaí fostaíochta nach mbíonn na scileanna teanga riachtanacha acu chun an tseirbhís sin a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge; tá bearta á gcur i gcrích ag an eagraíocht chun oiliúint a chur ar bhaill foirne chun feabhas a chur ar sheirbhísí cuntair trí chéile as Gaeilge san aimsir romhainn.

Bhí BOO Thiobraid Árann in ann a léiriú go bhfuil na gealltanais i dtaca leis an bhfáltilt agus leis an lasc-chlár comhlíonta aige. Léirigh BOO Lú agus na Mí agus BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí go gcuirtear leaganacha Gaeilge nó dátheangacha d'fhoirmeacha iarratais ar fáil don phobal agus bhí BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí in ann samplaí de phreasráitis as Gaeilge a sholáthar chomh maith.

Teicneolaíocht faisnéise agus chumarsáide

Bhí idir mhaith is olc san fhianaise a cuireadh ar fáil don iniúchadh i dtaobh chomhlíonadh ghealltanais na mBord Oideachais agus Oiliúna sa réimse TFC chomh maith. I gcuid de na cásanna, ní raibh faisnéis shonrach faoin réimse seo le fáil.

Léirigh BOO Chiarraí agus BOO Lú agus na Mí araon go mbíonn a gcuid gnáth-theachtaireachtaí ríomhphoist dátheangach. Bhí BOO Chiarraí in ann a chruthú freisin go bhfuil córais ríomhaireachta na heagraíochta in ann déileáil leis an nGaeilge ach d'admhaigh BOO Lú agus na Mí go raibh dul chun cinn le déanamh fós aige ó thaobh déileáil go cruinn le hortagrafaíocht na Gaeilge. Dúirt sé go ndéanadh sé a dhícheall córais ríomhaireachta nua lena mbítear ag déileáil

Contact/communication with the public

Kerry ETB demonstrated to the monitoring process that it was fulfilling its commitments under its language scheme in relation to communication or contact with the public. Examples include ten staff members in the organisation who are nominated to provide service through Irish, that customers are informed when the telephone is answered that a service through Irish is available, and that the personal pre-recorded telephone greetings of staff are in bilingual form.

On the website home page (sonraí teagmhála/contact details), members of the public with queries in Irish or about the Irish language are referred to oifigeachgaeilge@boochiarraí.ie. In addition, the organisation's application forms are bilingual with the Irish text more prominent than the English, and it has been confirmed that the name of the public body itself as well as the names of schools and centres are in both Irish and English. Brochures and leaflets are provided in Irish when they relate specifically to the Gaeltacht or to certain events.

Compliance with language scheme commitments was weaker for the other ETBs, in particular reception or telephone services. Louth & Meath ETB and Laois & Offaly ETB failed to demonstrate that a reception desk/counter service is provided in Irish. Louth & Meath ETB stated it has recruitment difficulties, relying on staff from employment agencies who do not have the language skills required to provide this service through Irish; the organisation is putting in place measures to train staff to improve counter services in general in Irish in the future.

Tipperary ETB was able to demonstrate that it has fulfilled its commitments in relation to its reception and switchboard. Louth & Meath ETB and Laois & Offaly ETB demonstrated that Irish or bilingual versions of application forms are made available to the public and Laois & Offaly ETB also provided examples of press releases in Irish.

Information and communication technology

The evidence provided to the audit regarding the fulfilment of Education and Training Boards' commitments in the ICT area was also quite varied. In some cases, no specific information on this area was made available.

Both Kerry ETB and Louth & Meath ETB demonstrated that their regular email messages are bilingual. Kerry ETB was also able to prove that the organisation's computer systems are able to deal with the Irish language but Louth & Meath ETB acknowledged that it had further progress to make in dealing with Irish language orthography. It stated that it will endeavour

leis an bpobal in ann an Ghaeilge a láimhseáil ach mhaígh go mbíonn srian ar an mBord de bharr é a bheith rannpháirteach i gcreata soláthair náisiúnta. Thug BOO Thiobraid Árann le fios go mbeidh gach córas ríomhaireachta nua ábalta an Ghaeilge a láimhseáil; níor cuireadh spriocdháta ná aon eolas breise ar fáil, in ainneoin é a bheith iarrtha.

Seachas suíomh gréasáin amháin a bhí díreach tagtha ar an bhfód (Coláiste Chiarraí), d'éirigh le BOO Chiarraí a léiriú gur chomhlíon sé a chuid gealltanais go léir i dtaobh suíomhanna gréasáin agus formhór an ábhair sheasta le fáil sa dá theanga faoi mar a gheall an eagraíocht ina scéim. Cuireadh an suíomh gréasáin ina cheart tar éis dúinn an cheist a ardú leis an mBord. I gcás BOO Lú agus na Mí bhí an teachtaireacht dhátheangach ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach agus eolas faoi bhaill an Bhoird le fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin an Bhoird ach go raibh bearnaí san fhaisnéis i gcomparáid leis an leagan Béarla, rud a gheall an Bord a chuirfí ina cheart faoi mhí Feabhra 2021. Thug an Bord le fios freisin go raibh córas ar líne á fheidhmiú aige a bhaineann le rochtain a fháil ar fhoirgnimh le linn phaindéim Covid-19 agus gur córas dátheangach é sin.

Dearbhaíodh san iniúchadh go bhfuil ráiteas dátheangach ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach ar shuíomh gréasáin BOO Thiobraid Árann. Maidir leis an ábhar statach ar an suíomh gréasáin a bheith ar fáil i nGaeilge, rinneadh scrúdú ar chuid den suíomh agus ba léir go raibh leagan Gaeilge de chuid den ábhar seasta fós in easnamh; níor thug an Bord aon mhíniú don Oifig seo ar an easnamh sin. Thug BOO Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí le fios go bhfuil athbhreithniú á dhéanamh ar an suíomh gréasáin, go bhfuil sé beartaithe suíomh gréasáin nua a fhorbairt faoi dheireadh an tríú ráithe de 2021 agus go mbeidh sé i gcomhréir leis an Scéim Teanga.

Cumas gealltanais a chur i bhfeidhm

Ní mór do chomhlachtaí poiblí a chinntiú go bhfuil líon leordhóthanach comhaltaí foirne acu chun a ngealltanais scéime teanga agus a ndualgais dhíreacha a chomhlíonadh. Tugtar cuntas sa tábla thíos ar an líon foirne riaracháin de chuid na mBord Oideachais agus Oiliúna a mheastar atá inniúil sa Ghaeilge. Bhí slata tomhais éagsúla in úsáid ag na Boird faoi leith chun inniúlacht sa Ghaeilge a mheas agus caithfear é sin a chur san áireamh agus na figiúirí thíos á scagadh.

to ensure that new systems with a public interface can deal with the Irish language but added that it is constrained by its participation in national procurement frameworks. Tipperary ETB indicated that all new computer systems will be able to deal with the Irish language; despite being so requested, no deadline or additional information was provided.

Except for one website that had just been developed (Kerry College), Kerry ETB demonstrated that it had fulfilled all of its commitments in relation to websites, with most static material available in both languages as the organisation had committed to in its scheme. The website was rectified after the issue was raised with the Board. Louth & Meath ETB's website featured a bilingual message from the Chief Executive and information about Board members but there were gaps in the information compared to the English version, which subsequently was rectified. The Board also stated that it was operating an online system relating to access to buildings during the Covid-19 pandemic and that this is a bilingual system.

The audit confirmed that the Tipperary ETB website features a bilingual statement from the Chief Executive. Regarding static content in Irish on the website, some of the site was examined and it became clear that parts of the static material still didn't feature in Irish; the Board did not explain this deficiency to my Office.

Laois & Offaly ETB has indicated that its website is being reviewed and that a new website, which will be compliant with the Language Scheme, is to be developed by the end of the third quarter of 2021.

Capacity to implement commitments

Public bodies must ensure that a sufficient number of staff is available to fulfil their language scheme commitments and direct obligations. The table below indicates the number of the Education and Training Boards' administrative staff that are considered to be competent in Irish. Each Board gauged competence in Irish using disparate criteria and this must be considered when examining the figures below.

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Education and Training Board	Líon iomlán comhaltaí foirne riaracháin sa Bhord, 31 Bealtaine 2020 Total number of administrative staff in the Board as of 31 May 2020	Líon comhaltaí foirne riaracháin a bhí inniúil a ngnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge, 31 Bealtaine 2020 Number of administrative staff capable of performing their functions through Irish as of 31 May 2020	Líon comhaltaí foirne a earcaíodh le linn na bliana 2019 Number of staff recruited during 2019	Líon post lenar bhain riachtanas Gaeilge a earcaíodh le linn na bliana 2019 Number of positions with an Irish language requirement during 2019
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chiarraí Kerry Education and Training Board	102	5	129	5
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board	77	0	18	1
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí Louth and Meath Education and Training Board	109	Tugadh le fios go bhfuil an fhoireann riaracháin i gColáiste Pobail Ráth Chairn in ann a ngnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge. It was indicated that the administrative staff in Coláiste Pobail Ráth Chairn can conduct business in Irish.	25	0
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Thiobraid Árann Tipperary Education and Training Board	Tugadh le fios go bhfuil iniúchadh le déanamh ar an bhfoireann chun a n-inniúlacht sa Ghaeilge a mheas agus go dtabharfar faoi in 2021. Dúradh nach féidir an chuid seo den fhoirm a chomhlánú nó go mbeidh an t-iniúchadh sin curtha i gcrích. It was indicated that a staff audit is to be completed to assess Irish language competency and that this is to take place in 2021. It was stated that this part of the form could not be completed until that audit is completed.			

Conclúid

Ghlac Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chiarraí leis an tuarascáil ar an bproiséas faireacháin agus tugadh le fios go leanfar de bhéim a leagan ar fheidhmiú éifeachtach na ngealltanais atá tugtha ag an mBord ina Scéim Teanga.

Thug Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí le fios go bhfuil athbhreithniú á dhéanamh ar na comharthaí atá curtha in airde faoi scáth an Bhoird agus go gceartófar comharthaí nach bhfuil géilliúil do na rialacháin faoi dheireadh na bliana 2021. Tá an Bord chun athbhreithniú iomlán a dhéanamh freisin ar shuíomh gréasáin an Bhoird agus tá sé beartaithe suíomh gréasáin nua a bheith tógtha faoi dheireadh na bliana 2021. Tugadh le fios chomh maith go bhfuiltear chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar na fógaírtí taifeadta béil atá á n-úsáid i ngach scoil agus ionad foghlama a thagann faoi scáth an Bhoird agus go gceartófar aon fhógairt nach bhfuil ag cloí le riachtanais na rialacháin.

Conclusion

Kerry Education and Training Board acknowledged the report on the monitoring process and stated that it will continue to emphasise the effective implementation of the commitments given in its Language Scheme.

Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board indicated that it is conducting a review of the signs erected by or on behalf of the organisation and that signs not in compliance with the regulations will be corrected by the end of 2021. The Board is also to carry out a complete revision of its website with a new website planned to be developed by the end of 2021. We were also informed that a review is to be carried out of the recorded oral announcements used in each of the Board's schools and learning centres and that any oral announcement not in compliance with the regulations will be corrected.

Gheall Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí go ndéanfaidh sé a dhícheall a chinntiú go mbeidh córais ríomhaireachta nua atá á suiteáil agus a dhéileálann le sonraí ón bpobal, lánábaltá ortagrafaíocht na Gaeilge a láimhseáil go cruinn chomh mór agus is féidir ag brath ar na córais atá ar fáil ar an margadh.

Ar iarratas ó BOO Lú agus na Mí agus ó BOO Thiobraid Árann d'eagraigh an Oifig seo seisiún eolais ar fhorálacha an Achta agus ar dhualgais comhlachtaí poiblí faoin Acht le gairid. Is maith an rud é go bhfuil éilimh ar chomhairle mar seo á gcur faoi bhráid na hOifige.

Ghlac Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Thiobraid Árann le torthaí an iniúchta agus tugadh le fios go mbeadh an tuarascáil mar bhunús dá phlean oibre chun géilliúlacht a bhaint amach in 2021.

Tugtar roinnt samplaí in Aguisín A de na suíomhanna gréasáin a scrúdaíodh.

Louth and Meath Education and Training Board committed to doing its utmost to ensure that new computer systems which are installed, and which deal with data from the public, are fully capable of handling Irish language orthography as accurately as possible, subject to the systems available in the market.

At the request of Louth & Meath ETB and of Tipperary ETB this Office recently held an information session on the provisions of the Act and the obligations placed on public bodies under the Act. Such requests for advice to the Office are to be welcomed.

Tipperary Education and Training Board accepted the findings of the audit and indicated that the report would form the basis of its work plan for achieving compliance in 2021.

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

ÚDARÁIS ÁITIÚLA – SUÍOMHANNA GRÉASÁIN



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Achoimre

Is áiseanna tábhachtacha eolais agus cumarsáide iad suíomhanna gréasáin san earnáil phoiblí. Is iondúil go mbíonn suíomhanna gréasáin ar na chéad fhoinsí tagartha a úsáideann saoránaigh chun teacht ar eolas nó rochtain a fháil ar sheirbhísí. Tá ag méadú ar líon na seirbhísí a chuireann comhlachtaí poiblí agus údarais áitiúla ar fáil don phobal ar líne agus is ceart go mbeidís ar fáil sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Is chuige seo a áirítear dualgais maidir leis na suíomhanna gréasáin sna scéimeanna teanga a dhainnítear. Scrúdaíodh comhlíonadh gealltanais maidir leis an nGaeilge ar shuíomhanna gréasáin deich n-údarás áitiúla agus áiríodh gealltanais maidir le seirbhísí idirghníomhacha a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge sa chás gurbh ann do na gealltanais sin.

An dualgas reachtúil

Sna treoirlínte reachtúla faoin 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 poiblí. Tá sé molta sna treoirlínte 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 n-eagraíochtaí atá dírithe ar an bpobal go ginearálta, ar fáil sa dá theanga.”

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

An obair iniúchta

Cuimsítear san iniúchadh seo an tríú bliain de thionscadal faireacháin chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh na ngealltanais atá tugtha ag údarais áitiúla i dtaca le suíomhanna gréasáin agus seirbhísí ar líne. Cuireadh na nithe seo a leanas san áireamh chun teacht ar chinneadh maidir leis na scéimeanna teanga a ndéanfaí iniúchadh orthu le linn na bliana 2020:

- 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

LOCAL AUTHORITIES – WEBSITES

Summary

Websites are important information and communication resources in the public sector. They are used extensively to provide information and essential services to the public in general. It is often the case nowadays that websites act as the first point of reference availed of by citizens when accessing information or services. Public bodies use online services to provide the public with an important range of services, and it is desirable that these be provided in both official languages. It is on this basis that obligations relating to websites are considered when confirming language schemes. An audit was carried out into the implementation of commitments made by ten local authorities in relation to the use of Irish on their respective websites which included commitments to provide interactive services in Irish, where such commitments were made.

The statutory obligation

The statutory guidelines issued under 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 aimed 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.”

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

The audit work

This audit encompasses the third year of a monitoring project with the objective of assessing how local authorities are fulfilling their commitments in relation to their websites and online services. The following factors were taken into consideration in deciding on the language schemes to be audited during 2020:

- 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

- an cineál scéime a bhí i gceist (an chéad scéim, an dara scéim etc)
- an raibh ceantar Gaeltachta ag teacht faoi dhlínse an údaráis áitiúil

Is iad seo a leanas na scéimeanna teanga a roghnaíodh don iniúchadh:

Údarás áitiúil <i>Local authority</i>	Bliain ar daingníodh an chéad scéim teanga <i>Year in which first language scheme was agreed</i>	Cineál scéime <i>Type of Scheme</i>	Bliain ar daingníodh an scéim teanga is deireanaí <i>Year in which latest language scheme was agreed</i>
Comhairle Contae Shligigh <i>Sligo County Council</i>	2010	An Dara Scéim <i>Second Scheme</i>	2017
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin <i>Monaghan County Council</i>	2008	An Dara Scéim <i>Second Scheme</i>	2017*
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí <i>Cork County Council</i>	2007	An Chéad Scéim <i>First Scheme</i>	2007
Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin <i>Roscommon County Council</i>	2007	An Chéad Scéim <i>First Scheme</i>	2007
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall <i>Fingal County Council</i>	2006	An Tríú Scéim <i>Third Scheme</i>	2018**
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí <i>Cork City Council</i>	2007	An Chéad Scéim <i>First Scheme</i>	2007
Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin <i>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council</i>	2007	An Dara Scéim <i>Second Scheme</i>	2018
Comhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí <i>Offaly County Council</i>	2017	An Chéad Scéim <i>First Scheme</i>	2017
Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach <i>Carlow County Council</i>	2008	An Chéad Scéim <i>First Scheme</i>	2008
Comhairle Contae na hIarmhí <i>Westmeath County Council</i>	2007	An Dara Scéim <i>Second Scheme</i>	2016

*Chomhaontaigh Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin a tríú scéim teanga leis an Aire Tuarasóireacht, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán le linn an iniúchta agus, mar sin, is ar an dara scéim a bhí an t-iniúchadh bunaithe.

**Chomhaontaigh Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall a ceathrú scéim teanga leis an Aire Tuarasóireacht, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán le linn an iniúchta agus, mar sin, is ar an tríú scéim a bhí an t-iniúchadh bunaithe.

I mí an Mhárta 2020 seoladh litir chuig Príomhfheidhmeannaigh na ndéic n-údarás áitiúla ag tabhairt réamhfhógra faoin iniúchadh. Cuireadh ceistneoir chucu inar tugadh cuntas ar na gealltanais ábhartha a bhí ina scéimeanna teanga faoi seach a bhain le suíomhanna gréasáin agus seirbhísí idirghníomhacha. Iarradh orthu eolas a thabhairt ar chomhlíonadh na ngealltanais sin. Scrúdaigh an Oifig seo na suíomhanna gréasáin agus rinneadh tástáil ar na seirbhísí ar líne agus a éifeachtaí a bhí siad ag comhlíonadh an méid atá geallta sna scéimeanna teanga. Eisíodh ceisteanna breise chuig na húdaráis ábhartha i bhfianaise na dtástálacha. Déantar trácht thíos ar easpa rannpháirtíochta cúig cinn de na húdaráis áitiúla a roghnaíodh do chlár iniúchta 2020.

- the type of scheme (first scheme, second scheme etc)
- whether a Gaeltacht region is included in the remit of the local authority

The following language schemes were selected for audit:

*Monaghan County Council agreed its third language scheme with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media during the audit and, therefore, the audit was based on the second scheme.

**Fingal County Council agreed its fourth language scheme with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media during the audit and, therefore, the audit was based on the third scheme.

In March 2020, a letter giving advance notice of the audit was issued to the Chief Executives of the ten local authorities. Enclosed was a form detailing the relevant commitments in their respective language schemes regarding their websites and interactive services. They were requested to provide details of their organisation's compliance with those commitments. This Office examined the websites, tested the online services and adjudicated on how effectively the commitments contained in the language schemes were being implemented. Additional questions were issued to the local authorities in light of the tests. Commentary follows below in respect of five local authorities which were selected for the 2020 audit programme and failed to engage.

Tátail agus príomhthorthaí

1. Leibhéal Géilliúlachta

Feidhmíodh critéir chomhlíonta bunaithe ar fhreagraí na n-údarás áitiúil agus ar bhreithiúnas na hOifige ar chomhlíonadh na ngealltanais. Áiríodh na dúshláin éagsúla a bhain leis na gealltanais ábhartha a chur i gcrích nuair a bhíodhas ag bronnadh na ngrád deiridh i ngach aon chás. De réir thorthaí an iniúchta ní raibh údarás áitiúil ar bith ag cloí go hiomlán leis na gealltanais a tugadh ina gcuid scéimeanna teanga i dtaca le suíomhanna gréasáin agus seirbhísí idirghníomhacha. Níor éirigh ach le dhá cheann de na húdaráis áitiúla an tríú grád a bhaint amach, is é sin ag comhlíonadh méid áirithe de ghealltanais na scéime. Bhí neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó i gceist le trí cinn de na húdaráis áitiúla a bhí rannpháirteach san iniúchadh.

Tugtar achoimre sa tábla thíos ar an ngrád iomlán a bhain na húdaráis áitiúla a bhí rannpháirteach san iniúchadh amach:

Údarás áitiúil <i>Local authority</i>	Líon gealltanais a scrúdaíodh <i>Number of commitments examined</i>	Grád <i>Grade</i>
Comhairle Contae Shligigh <i>Sligo County Council</i>	7	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Noncompliance for the most part</i>
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin <i>Monaghan County Council</i>	9	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Noncompliance for the most part</i>
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí <i>Cork County Council</i>	7	Comhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Compliance for the most part</i>
Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin <i>Roscommon County Council</i>	10	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Noncompliance for the most part</i>
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall <i>Fingal County Council</i>	8	Comhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Compliance for the most part</i>

2. Seirbhísí Idirghníomhacha

Déantar réimse tábhachtach seirbhísí poiblí a chuimsiú sna seirbhísí idirghníomhacha a chuireann údaráis áitiúla ar fáil ar a gcuid suíomhanna gréasáin. Is iondúil go gcuirtear foirmeacha iarratais, córais íocaíochta agus meicníochtaí fiosraithe agus aiseolais ar fáil don phobal ar líne. Is den tábhacht é go mbeadh aon chóras idirghníomhach nua a chuirfí i bhfeidhm ar fáil sa dá theanga oifigiúla go comhuaineach agus is ceart go leagtar béim mhór orthu sna treoracha d'ullmhú scéimeanna teanga.

Tá fianaise ar fheabhas leanúnach a bheith ag teacht ar sholáthar seirbhísí idirghníomhacha ar shuíomhanna gréasáin roinnt de na húdaráis áitiúla. Tuairiscíodh gur bhain deacrachtaí le sínte fada a úsáid ar chórais idirghníomhacha shuíomh gréasáin Chomhairle Contae Chorcaí ach tuigeadh an tábhacht a bhain le ceartúsáid na teanga i gcontae Gaeltachta go háirithe agus thángthas ar réiteach. Ní mór féachaint chuige agus seirbhísí úra á mbeartú ag údaráis áitiúla go ndéanfaí soláthar dóthanach agus pleanáil chuí chun go seolfaí an tseirbhís go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Is gá a mheabhú nach bhfuil aon ghlacadh le córais

Conclusions and main results

1. Level of Compliance

This Office implemented compliance criteria based on the responses of the local authorities and the Office's evaluation of the implementation of the commitments. The various challenges of implementing the relevant commitments were also considered as part of the grading process. According to the results of the audit, no local authority was found to be fully compliant with the commitments made in relation to websites and interactive services in their language schemes. Only two of the local authorities achieved the third highest grade, that is, compliance to a certain degree with scheme commitments. Three of the local authorities that engaged with the audit were noncompliant with the requirements for the most part.

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 Contae Shligigh <i>Sligo County Council</i>	7	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Noncompliance for the most part</i>
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin <i>Monaghan County Council</i>	9	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Noncompliance for the most part</i>
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí <i>Cork County Council</i>	7	Comhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Compliance for the most part</i>
Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin <i>Roscommon County Council</i>	10	Neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Noncompliance for the most part</i>
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall <i>Fingal County Council</i>	8	Comhlíonadh den chuid is mó <i>Compliance for the most part</i>

2. Interactive Services

An important range of public services are included in the interactive services that local authorities provide on their websites. Application forms, payment systems and enquiry and feedback mechanism are generally available to the public online. It is critically important that any new interactive systems that are introduced be made available in both official languages at the same time and it is appropriate that the directions for the preparation of language schemes should accord them due emphasis.

There is evidence of continuous improvement regarding the provision of interactive services on some local authorities' websites. Difficulties were reported with the use of *sinnte fada* on interactive services provided through the Cork County Council website but the importance of the correct linguistic usage was understood in a Gaeltacht county in particular and a solution was achieved. It is imperative that when new services are being proposed by local authorities that sufficient provision and appropriate planning is carried out to ensure that such services are launched in both official languages at the same time. It is necessary to stress that machine

mheaisínaistriúcháin (fearacht Google Translate) mar réamhshocrú chun ábhar Gaeilge a sholáthar ar shuíomh gréasáin. Is ceart do na húdaráis áitiúla féachaint chuige go mbeadh cruinneas úsáide agus ardchaighdeán teanga ag baint lena gcuid seirbhísí uile ar líne sa dá theanga oifigiúla.

Tráchtadh cheana i dTuarascáil Faireacháin na hOifige ar an ról lárnach atá ag an nGníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil i gcórais idirghníomhacha a chur ar fáil d'údaráis áitiúla. Ba mhór an tairbhe do na húdaráis áitiúla éileamh a dhéanamh ar na córais seo d'fhonn a gcuid gealltanais reachtúil a chomhlíonadh. Cé go dtugtar gealltanais dá leithéid i roinnt de na scéimeanna teanga ní léir go bhfuil cur chuige réamhghníomhach ná córasach á chleachtadh ag údaráis áitiúla áirithe agus gan aon éileamh den chineál sin déanta acu ar an nGníomhaireacht go dtí seo.

Cé go raibh feabhsúcháin chéimnithe le tabhairt faoi deara ar sholáthar Chomhairle Contae Fhine Gall ar a suíomh gréasáin sise – bota comhrá dátheangach a tugadh isteach i dtús aimsir na paidéime mar shampla – ba neamh-chomhlíonadh den chuid is mó a bhí le lua le trí cinn de na húdaráis áitiúla a bhí rannpháirteach san iniúchadh. Níor léir go raibh cur chuige córasach ag Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin a chuirfeadh ar a cumas áireamh a dhéanamh ar líon na bhfoirmeacha a bhí ar fáil i nGaeilge nó go dátheangach. Ní raibh modheolaíocht shonrach ag Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin (23/61 foirm ar fáil i nGaeilge) chun cothromaíocht soláthair sa dá theanga a chinntiú maidir le réimse leathan foirmeacha iarratais, cuir i gcás.

Aithnítear go bhfuil úsáid mhór á baint as seirbhísí ar líne ó thús na paidéime agus is cinnte go ngéarófar ar éileamh agus ar úsáid na seirbhísí céanna feasta. Is den riachtanas práinneach mar sin é go n-aithneoidh údaráis áitiúla, agus comhlachtaí poiblí trí chéile, gur gá pleanáil chórasach a dhéanamh do sheirbhísí dátheangacha a sholáthar ar ardáin leictreonacha éagsúla amhail aipeanna agus suíomhanna gréasáin.

3. Comóntacht na nGealltanais

Baineann éagsúlacht shuntasach le scéimeanna éagsúla maidir le mianaidhm na ngealltanais agus samhail na n-údaráis áitiúil de phobal úsáide na seirbhísí. Ní mar a chéile a chaith aon cheann de na cúig údaráis áitiúla a bhí rannpháirteach san iniúchadh le foirmeacha iarratais, ábhar statach, polasaithe ginearálta nó foilseacháin faoi alt 10. Fágann sin gur minic a chuirtear gealltanais in iúl faoi rochtain a bheith ar ábhar agus foilseacháin ar bhealaí thar a bheith difriúil ó scéim teanga go chéile.

Ábhar

I gcás thromlach na scéimeanna teanga a scrúdaíodh, gealladh go gcuirfí roinnt leathanach de chuid an tsuimh gréasáin ar fáil i nGaeilge. Is minic a tagraíodh do chéatadán leathanach nó rannóga éagsúla a bheith ar fáil go dátheangach. I gcás Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin ní raibh ach tuairim is 2% d'ábhar iomlán an tsuimh ar fáil i nGaeilge agus gan aon spriocdhátaí luaite le hábhar breise

translation systems (such as Google Translate) are unacceptable as a default arrangement for official purposes to provide Irish language content on a website. Local authorities should strive to ensure that accurate usage and high linguistic standards should pertain to all of their online services in both official languages.

The central role of the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) in the provision of interactive systems to local authorities has been remarked on previously in the Monitoring Report of the Office. It would be highly beneficial to local authorities to request such systems with a view to complying with their statutory commitments. While such commitments may be given in some of the language schemes it is apparent that neither a pro-active nor a systematic approach is being adopted by certain local authorities who have sought no such assistance from the Agency to date.

While incremental improvements are to be noted regarding the website provision of Fingal County Council – a bilingual chatbot was introduced at the beginning of the pandemic for example – three of the local authorities which engaged with the audit were found to be non-compliant for the most part. It is clear that Roscommon County Council did not adopt a systematic approach which would allow it to make an inventory of forms available in Irish or bilingually. Monaghan County Council did not utilise a defined methodology to ensure balanced provision in both languages in respect of a wide range of application forms (23/61 forms available in Irish).

It is acknowledged that online services have experienced immense traffic since the beginning of the pandemic and it is certain that the demand and usage of such services will only increase. Consequently, there is an urgent necessity for local authorities, and public bodies in general, to systematically plan to provide for bilingual services on various electronic platforms including apps and websites.

3. Commonality of Commitments

Significant variation is apparent in the various schemes regarding the strategic intent of the commitments and local authorities' perception of the service user community. All five local authorities which engaged with the audit treated application forms, static content, general policies or section 10 publications in disparate ways. Commitments regarding access to content and publications are often framed in vastly differing contexts across language schemes.

Content

Most of the language schemes examined contained a commitment to provide certain pages on the website in Irish. Many schemes referred to a percentage of pages or various sections to be available bilingually. Monaghan County Council had only provided 2% of the entire content of its website in Irish with no indication given of deadlines by which further

Gaeilge a sholáthar. Bhí difríochtaí suntasacha idir leaganacha Gaeilge agus Béarla den ábhar ginearálta céanna ar shuíomh gréasáin Chomhairle Contae Shligigh. Ní fhéadfaí muinín a chur sna leaganacha Gaeilge de na míreanna *Events*, *Local Elections 2019*, *Wellbeing*, *Policies* de bhrí nár léir go raibh an t-ábhar Gaeilge cothrom le dáta agus ar aon dul leis na leaganacha Béarla de na míreanna sin faoi seach.

Thug Comhairle Contae Shligigh le fios i gcomhfhreagras uaithe i mí an Mheithimh 2021 gur aistríodh go Gaeilge 29% de phreaseisiúintí na Comhairle sa chéad ráithe de 2021 agus 42% sa dara ráithe agus go leanfar ag aistriú preaseisiúintí atá ábhartha agus a bhfuil tábhacht mhór ag baint leo. Gheall an Chomhairle go bhfuil córas foirmiúil in áit aici chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an Scéim Teanga agus ar an inneachar i nGaeilge ar an láithreán gréasáin agus ar na meáin shóisialta. Tugadh le fios go bhfuil athbhreithniú déanta ar na foirmeacha iarratais agus ar na seirbhísí idirghníomhacha. Rinne an Chomhairle teagmháil leis an nGníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil le naisc nua 'Webpay' a fháil agus rinneadh iad a nuashonrú ar an láithreán gréasáin ina dhiaidh sin. Chomh maith leis sin tugadh le fios dúinn go bhfuil sé ar intinn ag Comhairle Contae Shligigh dul tríd an Oifig um Sholáthar Rialtais le teacht ar sholáthraí seirbhíse aistriúcháin chun freastal ar a cuid riachtanas aistriúcháin amach anseo.

Bhí leaganacha Gaeilge de thuarascálacha bliantúla Chomhairle Contae Ros Comáin ar fáil ach ní raibh ach leagan Béarla ar fáil de ráitis airgeadais 2014-2018 ar an suíomh. Is loiceadh suntasach ar dhualgas reachtúil na Comhairle céanna úsáid neamhrialaithe meaisínáistriúcháin chun leagan Gaeilge a sholáthar d'ábhar statach an tsuimh, cur chuige nach bhfuil inghlactha maidir le gnó stáit a reáchtáil trí Ghaeilge.

Tá fianaise leiththeadach ar fáil mar thoradh ar an iniúchadh seo don áiteamh nach gcomhlíonfar gealltanais a thugtar i scéim teanga mura mbíonn córas cuí i bhfeidhm ag údaráis áitiúla agus feasacht láidir á saothrú i measc lucht bainistíochta agus fhoireann na n-údarás áitiúil maidir le tábhacht leanúnach na gcóras céanna. Is beag meicníocht eile a chinnteoidh athbhreithniú rialta agus uasdátú tráthúil ar ábhar Gaeilge na suíomhanna gréasáin.

Foilseacháin

Léirigh an próiseas iniúchta arís eile go raibh líon suntasach de na húdaráis áitiúla a scrúdaíodh ag foilsíú a gcuid tuarascálacha bliantúla chomh maith le ráitis airgeadais agus doiciméid ina raibh tograí beartais phoiblí i mBéarla amháin, mar a luadh thuas. Ba léir freisin i roinnt cásanna go raibh bearnaí suntasacha ina gcuid tacar cáipéisíochta le tamall maith blianta in ainneoin an cheanglais reachtúil atá i bhfeidhm ón mbliain 2004 go bhfoilseofaí na doiciméid sin go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla. Níl teacht ar ráitis airgeadais Chomhairle Contae Fhine Gall i nGaeilge don tréimhse 2012-2017 ach tá béim á leagan ar sheirbhísí reatha amhail an Rannóg Nuachta mar a mbíonn fáil chomhuaineach ar phreasráitis i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla.

Irish language content will be made available. There were significant differences in the Irish and English language versions of similar generic content on Sligo County Council's website. The Irish language versions of segments relating to *Events*, *Local Elections 2019*, *Wellbeing*, *Policies* were not authoritative as it was apparent that the Irish language content was not up-to-date and did not conform with the English language versions of those particular segments.

In correspondence received from Sligo County Council in June 2021, it was stated that 29% of its press releases were translated into Irish in the first quarter of 2021 and 42% in the second quarter and this would continue with relevant and important press releases. A commitment has been given by the Council that a formal system is in place to monitor the Language Scheme and the Irish content on its website and social media. We were informed that it has reviewed its application forms and its interactive services. The Council contacted the Local Government Management Agency to provide it with links to 'Webpay', and these were subsequently updated on the website. We were also informed that Sligo County Council intended to contact the Office of Government Procurement about a translation services provider being available to it for the purpose of its translation requirements in the future.

Irish language versions of Roscommon County Council annual reports were available but only English language versions of the 2014-2018 financial statements were provided on the site. The same Council is failing significantly to comply with its statutory obligation to provide Irish language versions of website static content through the use of unregulated machine translation, an approach which is unacceptable in respect of carrying out state business through Irish.

Considerable evidence is available as a result of this audit to support the contention that a commitment made in a language scheme shall remain unimplemented if local authorities do not adopt appropriate systems and work to increase awareness amongst local authority management and staff about the continuing importance of these systems. Few other mechanisms will guarantee regular review and timely updating of Irish language content on websites.

Publications

The audit process once again demonstrated that a significant number of local authorities which were audited are publishing their annual reports, financial statements and documents containing public policy proposals in English only, as mentioned above. It was also clear in some cases that there were large gaps over several years in documentary depositories despite the statutory obligation which is in force since 2004 that those documents should be published in both official languages at the same time. Irish language versions of Fingal County Council's financial statements for 2012-2017 are not available but emphasis is being placed on current services such as the News Section where press statements are made available in Irish and English at the same time.

Bhain níos mó comóntachta leis an méid a bhí geallta i dtaca le hábhar statach ach cuireadh in iúl go dtagann míréir chun cinn idir leaganacha Gaeilge agus Béarla de bhunfhoilseacháin mar thoradh ar mhoill aistriúcháin. Is ceist í seo a bhaineann le dearadh prótacail, pleanáil chórasach agus sruthanna táirgíochta cáipéisí atá díreach faoi smacht na n-údarás áitiúil féin.

Léirítear sa tábla thíos go hachomair na gnéithe is suntasaí de na gealltanais ábhartha a bhí tugtha ag an húdarais áitiúla:

Gealltanais

Údarás áitiúil <i>Local authority</i>	Suíomh iomlán dátheangach <i>Fully bilingual website</i>	Suíomhanna eile de chuid na Comhairle <i>Other Council websites</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 Shligigh <i>Sligo County Council</i>			•		•	
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin <i>Monaghan County Council</i>			•	•	•	
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí <i>Cork County Council</i>			•		•	•
Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin <i>Roscommon County Council</i>		•	•	•	•	
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall <i>Fingal County Council</i>				•	•	
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí <i>Cork City Council</i>				•	•	•
Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin <i>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council</i>	•		•			
Comhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí <i>Offaly County Council</i>			•	•		
Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach <i>Carlow County Council</i>			•	•		
Comhairle Contae na hIarmhí <i>Westmeath County Council</i>			•			
Iomlán Total	1	1	8	6	6	2

A greater degree of commonality was observed in the case of commitments relating to static content but it was also reported that discrepancies arise between Irish and English language versions of core publications as a result of translation delays. This is an issue which relates to protocol design, systematic planning and document production workflows which are under the direct control of the local authorities themselves.

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

Commitments

Easpa rannpháirtíochta

Oiread leis na húdarais áitiúla a ndearnadh iniúchadh orthu thuas, iarradh ar Chomhairle Cathrach Chorcaí, Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin agus Comhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí faisnéis chruinn agus cothrom le dáta a chur ar fáil do m'Oifig. Beidh a gcuid dualgas reachtúil á meabhrú dóibh arís eile agus mé ag féachaint le mo chuid feidhmeanna mar Choimisinéir Teanga a chomhlíonadh.

Lack of engagement

As was the case with the local authorities which were subject to audit above, accurate and up-to-date information was requested by my Office from Cork City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and Offaly County Council. Their statutory obligations will be re-emphasized to them as I seek to carry out my duties as An Coimisinéir Teanga.

Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí

Thug Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí le fios i gcumarsáid teileafóin ar an 23 Márta 2020 nach mbeadh ar chumas na Comhairle freagra a thabhairt ar an gceistneoir faoin 25 Márta 2020 mar gheall ar ghéarchéim Covid-19 ag an am. D'eisigh m'Oifig roinnt mhaith meabhrúcháin agus rinneadh teagmhálacha teileafóin leis an gComhairle Cathrach idir mí an Mheithimh agus mí na Samhna 2020. In ainneoin admhálacha a bheith faighte ón gComhairle ar na meabhrúcháin seo, ní bhfuarthas aon fhreagra ar an gceistneoir go fóill.



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Cork City Council

Cork City Council stated in telephone communication on 23 March 2020 that it would not be in a position to respond to the questionnaire by 25 March 2020 due to the ongoing Covid-19 emergency. My Office issued numerous reminders and telephone contact was made with the City Council on several occasions from June to November 2020. Despite acknowledgments from the Council in relation to these reminders, my Office is yet to receive a response to the questionnaire.

Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin

Eisíodh meabhrúcháin rialta chuig Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin. Thug an Chomhairle Contae le fios i gcumarsáid teileafóin le m'Oifig ar an 21 Deireadh Fómhair 2020 go raibh an Chomhairle gnóthach de bharr víreas Covid-19. Scríobhadh arís chuig an gComhairle ag meabhrú an riachtanais a bhí ann freagra a thabhairt ar an gceistneoir. Níor éirigh leis na hiarrachtaí sin agus ní bhfuarthas freagra ar an iniúchadh go dtí seo.



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Regular reminders were issued to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. The County Council stated in telephone communication with my Office on 21 October 2020 that it was busy due to the Covid-19 emergency. My Office wrote again to the Council reminding it of the requirement to respond to the questionnaire. These efforts were unsuccessful and no response to the audit has been received to date.

Comhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí

Eisíodh meabhrúcháin rialta chuig an gComhairle agus rinne m'Oifig roinnt mhaith iarrachtaí cumarsáid dhíreacha a dhéanamh leis an teagmhálaí cuí i gComhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí ar an teileafón. Ní raibh toradh ar na hiarrachtaí iomadúla seo fós. Is cúis díomá dom dearcadh na Comhairle Contae ar an ábhar seo.



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

Offaly County Council

Regular reminders were issued to the Council and my Office made considerable efforts to communicate directly with the appropriate officer in Offaly County Council by telephone. No response has been received so far despite numerous attempts. I am disappointed by the attitude of the County Council on this matter.

Meabhraítear do na comhlachtaí poiblí go bhféadfar, faoi alt 22(4), (5) agus (6) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, imeachtaí dlí a thionscnamh ina gcoinne siúd a mhainníonn forálacha den reachtaíocht teanga a chomhlíonadh, nó a chuireann treampán nó bac ar an gCoimisinéir le linn dó a fheidhmeanna a chomhlíonadh.

I should remind the public bodies concerned that under section 22(4), (5) and (6) of the Official Languages Act 2003 legal proceedings may be brought against those who refuse to comply with provisions of language legislation, or who hinder or obstruct An Coimisinéir Teanga in carrying out his duties.

Easpa géilliúlachta

Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach

Rinne m'Oifig teagmháil le Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach agus i mí an Mheithimh 2020 fuarthas comhfhreagras inar tugadh le fios nach raibh Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach in ann na caighdeáin a bhaint amach mar atá leagtha amach i ndoiciméad na ngealltanais scéime de bharr easpa acmhainní. Tá imscrúdú tionscanta anois agam ar an ábhar seo.



CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOCHA

Carlow County Council

My Office contacted Carlow County Council and in June 2020 we received a letter indicating that Carlow County Council was unable to meet the standards set out in a scheme commitments document due to lack of resources. I have now initiated an investigation into this matter.

Comhairle Contae na hIarmhí

Léiríodh sa Tráchtairacht ar chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga a d'fhoilsigh m'Oifig sa bhliain 2017 go raibh easpa gluaiseacht chun cinn le brath ó scéim go scéim agus go raibh cúlú nó teorannú á dhéanamh ar an méid a bhíonn geallta ag roinnt de na comhlachtaí poiblí ina scéimeanna teanga.



Westmeath County Council

The Commentary on the system of language schemes published by my Office in 2017 demonstrated a lack of progress from scheme to scheme and regression from commitments or limiting of commitments made by some public bodies in their language schemes.

I gcás Chomhairle Contae na hIarmhí, athraíodh gealltanais scéime ab ábhar d'imscrúdú a rinne mé in 2011. Chinn an t-imscrúdú sin gur sháraigh an Chomhairle na dualgais reachtúla teanga nuair nár chuir sí i bhfeidhm go cuí na gealltanais a bhí daingnithe ina scéim teanga maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge ar fhoirmeacha iarratais, ar bhróisiúir, ar bhileoga eolais agus ar an suíomh gréasáin. Nuair a theip ar an gComhairle Contae feidhmiú de réir na bhfionnachtana agus na moltaí a rinne mé san imscrúdú foirmiúil, bhí sé de chúram orm tuarascáil a chur faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais faoi alt 26(5) den Acht in 2013.

Sa dara scéim teanga a d'aontaigh an Chomhairle Contae leis an Roinn Tuarasóireachta, Cúlúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán in 2016, rinneadh cúlú suntasach i leith na ngealltanais a bhain leis an suíomh gréasáin. In ionad gach ábhar a bheith á chur ar fáil go comhuaineach sa dá theanga oifigiúla ar an suíomh gréasáin, ní raibh geallta anois ach go gcuirfí ábhar statach ar fáil ar an leathanach baile agus ar roinnt leathanaigh eile nach raibh sonraithe.

Gealltanais na scéime:

An chéad scéim teanga, 2007:

"Foilseofar gach ábhar ar an láithreán gréasáin go comhuaineach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla."

An dara scéim teanga, 2016:

"Beidh an t-ábhar statach ar an leathanach baile agus ar phríomhleathanaigh shonracha ar láithreán gréasáin Chomhairle Contae na hIarmhí ar fáil i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge."

Sháraigh an Chomhairle dhá dhualgas reachtúla nuair nár cuireadh i bhfeidhm gealltanais a bhí aontaithe ina scéim teanga agus freisin nuair nár cuireadh i bhfeidhm na moltaí a rinne mé san imscrúdú reachtúil.

Moltaí

Tar éis don Oifig seo an próiseas faireacháin a thabhairt chun críche, cuireadh torthaí an iniúchta ar fáil do na húdaráis áitiúla úd a bhí rannpháirteach san iniúchadh. Tugadh deis dóibh aon aiseolas breise a mheas siad a bheith ábhartha a chur ar fáil. Ghlac mórchuid na n-údarás leis na fionnachtana agus dhearbhaigh siad go gcuirfí na moltaí ábhartha i bhfeidhm.

Faoi seo, agus faireachán cuimsitheach déanta ar chur i bhfeidhm scéimeanna teanga na n-údarás áitiúil, is fiú tréithe coitianta a thabhairt faoi deara i measc mholtaí na n-iniúchtaí. Is ann don fheabhas leanúnach agus do shamplaí forbartha dea-chleachtais. Is ann chomh maith céanna don easpa dul chun cinn agus don neamhaird ar uairibh.

I measc mholtaí an iniúchta i mbliana, molar:

- Go mbeadh córais agus bogearraí ríomhaireachta inniúil ar ortagrafaíocht na Gaeilge a láimhseáil (sínte fada go háirithe) gan stró;

In the case of Westmeath County Council, a commitment contained in a scheme that was the subject of an investigation by my Office in 2011 was altered. That investigation found that the Council had breached the statutory language obligations by not properly implementing the commitments set out in its language scheme in relation to the use of Irish on application forms, brochures, information leaflets and its website. When the County Council failed to comply with the findings and recommendations of my formal investigation, I was obliged to submit a report to the Houses of the Oireachtas under section 26(5) of the Act in 2013.

The second language scheme agreed by the County Council with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in 2016 significantly reversed the commitments relating to the website. Instead of all content being made available simultaneously in both official languages on the website, the only commitment now was to provide static content on the homepage and some other non-specified pages.

Scheme commitments:

First language scheme, 2007:

"All content on the website will be published simultaneously in Irish and English."

Second language scheme, 2016:

"The static content on the homepage and on specified key pages of the Westmeath County Council website will be available in English and Irish."

The Council breached two statutory obligations by failing to implement commitments agreed in its language scheme and also by failing to implement the recommendations I made in the statutory investigation.

Recommendations

Following the completion of the monitoring process, all of the local authorities which had engaged with the audit were informed of the results of the audit. They were invited to provide any additional feedback they deemed relevant. Most of the local authorities accepted the findings and stated that the relevant recommendations would be put into effect.

Comprehensive monitoring having been completed of the implementation of local authority language schemes, some common traits emerging from audit recommendations are noteworthy. Continuous improvement is in evidence as is the development of best practice models. Lack of progress and occasional disregard are also evident however.

Among this year's audit recommendations, it is advised that:

- Computer systems and software should have the capacity to handle Irish language orthography (*sínte fada* in particular) without difficulty;

- Go gcuirfí córais idirghníomhacha ar shuíomhanna gréasáin agus tairsigh na n-údarás áitiúil ar fáil i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla go comhuaineach.

Is riachtanais náisiúnta iad na moltaí seo ach treisítear orthu má bhíonn limistéar Gaeltachta i gceantar feidhme an údaráis áitiúil. Moltar freisin:

- Go ndéanfaidh údaráis áitiúla athbhreithniú rialta ar shuíomhanna gréasáin lena chinntiú go mbíonn an t-ábhar statach agus mórfoilseacháin i gcomhréir le gealltanais a gcuid scéimeanna teanga;
- Go gcinnteofaí go bhfuil doiciméid lena mbaineann dualgais reachtúla, amhail Tuarascálacha Bliantúla, Ráitis Airgeadais agus dréacht-Phleananna Forbartha Contae, á bhfoilsiú i nGaeilge go comhuaineach leis an leagan Béarla agus go bhfoilseofaí na leaganacha Gaeilge agus Béarla ar an tslí chéanna;
- Go bhféachfadh údaráis áitiúla chuige go gcuirfí prótacail chinnte in áit i dtaca le doiciméid i nGaeilge a choinneáil cothrom le dáta ar shuíomhanna gréasáin agus go gcuirfí oiliúint foirne ar fáil chun go dtuigfí an riachtanas leanúnach a bhaineann leis an obair seo;
- Go lorgófaí go gníomhach leagan Gaeilge d'aon chóras idirghníomhach atá in úsáid agus/nó á bheartú amach anseo agus go n-oibreodh údaráis áitiúla i gcomhar leis an nGníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil i dtreo an chuspóra seo;
- Go gcuirfeadh údaráis áitiúla na córais chuí in áit lena chinntiú go ndéanfar soláthar tráthúil maidir le hábhar úr a aistriú agus a chrochadh ar shuíomhanna gréasáin.

Is dona liom go mór an cur chuige a ghlac cúig údarás áitiúla chucu féin maidir le próiseas faireacháin agus iniúchta na bliana seo. In ainneoin na ndúshlán a bhí roimh an earnáil go náisiúnta, ní léiriú sásúil easpa shoiléir gnímh na gcúig údarás áitiúla thuasluaite i leith a gcuid dualgas reachtúil faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

Tá sé d'údarás ag an gCoimisinéir Teanga imscrúdú foirmiúil a dhéanamh, ar a thionscnamh féin, má thagann sé ar an tuairim go bhféadfadh sé go bhfuil forálacha an Achta á sárú. D'fhéadfadh sé go ndéanfaí sin i gcás roinnt de na húdaráis áitiúla a bhí i gceist leis an bpróiseas faireacháin seo nó sa chás nach gcuirtear na moltaí a rinneadh de thoradh na n-iniúchtaí i bhfeidhm go cuí i dtréimhse réasúnta ama. Tá tús curtha le himscrúdú amháin agam cheana féin.

Tugtar roinnt samplaí in Aguisín B de na suíomhanna gréasáin a scrúdaíodh.

- Interactive systems should be provided on local authority websites and portals in Irish and English at the same time.

These recommendations are national requirements but they pertain in particular to local authorities which contain Gaeltacht areas. It is also recommended that:

- Local authorities should carry out regular reviews of websites to ensure that static content and major publications are compliant with their language scheme commitments;
- Documents which involve statutory obligations such as Annual Reports, Financial Statements and draft County Development Plans should be published in Irish at the same time as the English version and in the same manner;
- Local authorities should ensure that defined protocols exist regarding the update of Irish language documents on websites and staff training be provided to ensure that the continuing necessity for this work is understood;
- Irish language versions of any interactive systems currently in use or in planning should be pro-actively procured and local authorities should work with the Local Government Management Agency towards this objective;
- Local authorities should put the appropriate systems in place to ensure that new content is promptly translated and added to websites.

I deeply disapprove of the approach adopted by five local authorities during the course of this year's audit and monitoring process. Despite the challenges facing the sector nationally, the clear lack of action of the five aforementioned local authorities is not a satisfactory expression of their statutory obligations under the Official Languages Act.

An Coimisinéir Teanga has the authority to initiate a formal investigation, on his own initiative, if he forms the opinion that provisions of the Act are being contravened. This may be done in the case of some of the local authorities that were examined as part of this audit, or in the event that the recommendations made as a result of the audits are not adequately implemented after a reasonable amount of time. One investigation has been initiated already.

Some examples are given in Appendix B of the websites examined.

FAIREACHÁN AR IMSCRÚDITHE 2019

Comhairle Contae Chiarraí

Léirigh imscrúdú nár chuir Comhairle Contae Chiarraí i bhfeidhm coinníoll teanga a cheangail an Bord Pleanála le cead pleanála a deonaíodh d'fhorbairt tithíochta i mBaile an Fheirtéaraigh i nGaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne. Rinneadh fionnachtain dá bharr gur sháraigh an Chomhairle Contae forálacha teanga de chuid an Achta um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000.

Príomh-mholtaí an imscrúdaithe

Mhol mé go n-ullmhódh agus go mbunódh Comhairle Contae Chiarraí nósanna imeachta chun mo shástachta a bheidh le leanúint in aon chás ina leagtar coinníoll teanga ar chead pleanála le haghaidh forbairt tithíochta sa Gaeltacht chun feidhm éifeachtach a thabhairt don choinníoll sin. Mhol mé, chomh maith, go gcuirfeadh Comhairle Contae Chiarraí an Oifig seo ar an eolas maidir le haon chead pleanála a dheonófar i nGaeltacht Chiarraí go ceann cúig bliana i dtaca le hiarratais mhóra phleanála nó iarratais i leith forbairt breis agus trí theach cónaithe. D'áireofaí freisin an tslí ar comhlíonadh na cuspóirí ábhartha de chuid Phlean Forbartha Contae Chiarraí a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge nuair a bhí an t-iarratas pleanála sin á mheas. Sa chás go gceanglófaí coinníoll le cead pleanála a bhaineann le húsáid na Gaeilge, ba ghá faisnéis a thabhairt don Oifig seo i dtuairim na socrúithe a chuirfear i bhfeidhm chun comhlíonadh an choinníoll sin a dheimhniú.

An obair iniúchta

I mí an Mheithimh 2019, chuir Comhairle Contae Chiarraí freagra ar fáil ag glacadh leis na fionnachtana agus tugadh léargas ar na céimeanna a bhí glactha ag an gComhairle maidir le forfheidhmiú mholtaí an imscrúdaithe.

Dúradh go nglacann Comhairle Contae Chiarraí uirthi féin cuspóirí H15-H24 de Phlean Forbartha Contae Chiarraí, 2015-2021 a chur i bhfeidhm sa mhéid a bhaineann siad leis an nGaeilge le linn thréimhse feidhme an Phlean Forbartha. Go bunúsach, ceanglaíonn na cuspóirí sin coinníoll leis an gcead pleanála chun oidhreacht teanga agus chultúrtha an limistéir Gaeltachta a chosaint. Tá sé de dhualgas ar an gComhairle Contae na cuspóirí sin a chur i bhfeidhm ina dhiaidh sin.



MONITORING OF 2019 INVESTIGATIONS

Kerry County Council

An investigation found that Kerry County Council did not implement a language condition attached by An Bord Pleanála to planning permission granted for a housing development in Baile an Fheirtéaraigh in the Corca Dhuibhne/West Kerry Gaeltacht. A finding was made that the County Council had contravened

language provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Main recommendations of the investigation

I proposed that Kerry County Council prepare and establish procedures to my satisfaction to be followed in any case where a language condition is attached to planning permission for a housing development in the Gaeltacht so as to give proper effect to this condition. I also recommended that Kerry County Council inform this Office of any planning permission granted in the Kerry Gaeltacht for the next five years in relation to major planning applications or applications for the development of over three homes. This would also include the way in which the relevant objectives of the Kerry County Development Plan relating to the Irish language were met in the consideration of that planning application. Where planning permission would contain a condition relating to the use of the Irish language, it would be necessary to inform my Office of the arrangements to be put in place to ensure compliance with that condition.

The audit work

In June 2019, Kerry County Council provided a response accepting the findings and outlining the steps taken by the Council in implementing the recommendations of the investigation.

It was stated that Kerry County Council undertakes to implement the H15-H24 objectives of the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 in so far as they relate to the Irish language during the Development Plan implementation period. In essence, these objectives attach a condition to planning permission to protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht area. The County Council is then obliged to implement the said objectives.

Sa chomhfhreagras céanna cuireadh in iúl dúinn:

- go n-ullmhóidh an Chomhairle Contae na beartais agus an cháipéisíocht chuí a bheidh le leanúint in aon chás ina leagtar coinníoll teanga ar chead pleanála ar fhorbairtí tithíochta sna ceantair Ghaeltachta.
- go gcuirfeadh an Chomhairle Contae in iúl do m'Oifig aon chead pleanála a dheonófar i nGaeltacht Chiarraí ar feadh tréimhse cúig bliana i dtaca le hiarratais mhóra phleanála nó iarratais i leith forbairtí de bhreis ar thrí theach cónaithe, agus an tslí a gcomhlíonfaí na cuspóirí ábhartha de chuid Phlean Forbartha Contae Chiarraí a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge.
- sa chás go gceanglófaí coinníoll le cead pleanála a bhaineann le húsáid na Gaeilge, go gcuirfí faisnéis i dtaobh na socruithe chun comhlíonadh an choinníll sin a dheimhniú faoi bhráid m'Oifige.
- go bhfuil fionnachtana agus moltaí an imscrúdaithe curtha in iúl d'fhoireann na Rannóige Pleanála, na Rannóige Dlí agus don Bhord Pleanála.

Ar an 26 Iúil 2019 cuireadh cóip de na socruithe agus na nósanna imeachta atá le leanúint má chuirtear coinníoll teanga i bhfeidhm faoi bhráid na hOifige. Is iad na príomhshocruithe agus na príomhnósanna imeachta:

- measúnófar an tionchar teanga atá ag iarratais ar fhorbairt de bhreis ar thrí theach cónaithe agus cinnteofar go gcuirfear cuid oiriúnach de na tithe cónaithe atá á gceadú ar fáil dóibh siúd a bhfuil líofacht shásúil i dteanga na Gaeilge taispeánta don údarás pleanála acu.
- sula gcuirfear aon choinníoll den saghas sin i bhfeidhm nó sula ndeonófar cead, lorgófar soiléiriú ón bhforbróir maidir le conas a chinnteofar go gcomhlíonfar coinníoll den saghas sin.
- i gcás ina ndeonófar cead den saghas sin, eiseofar cóip den chinneadh chuig an gCoimisinéir Teanga mar chuid den ghnáthfhógra do chomhlachtaí seachtracha.
- i gcásanna nach bhfuil coinníollacha á gcomhlíonadh, is féidir imeachtaí dlí a thionscnamh i leith an iarratasóra/an ghníomhaire tar éis dul tríd an bpróiseas foirmiúil. Tríd an bpróiseas seo (1) cuirtear litir faoi bhráid an iarratasóra/an ghníomhaire ina n-éilítear go gcomhlíonfar na coinníollacha laistigh de thréimhse ama, (2) déantar cruinniú a éileamh chun comhlíonadh a dheimhniú, (3) sa chás go leantar den neamh-chomhlíonadh, eisítear meabhrúchán tar éis trí seachtaine, (4) dhá sheachtain ina dhiaidh sin tugtar fógra maidir leis na himeachtaí dlí.

In the same correspondence we were informed:

- that the County Council would prepare the appropriate policies and documentation to be followed in any case where language conditions are attached to planning permission for housing developments in the Gaeltacht areas.
- that the County Council would inform my Office of any planning permission granted in the Kerry Gaeltacht for a period of five years in respect of major planning applications or for developments in excess of three dwellings, and how the relevant objectives of the Kerry County Development Plan relating to the Irish language will be met.
- where a condition relating to the use of the Irish language were to attach to a planning permission, information on the arrangements to ensure compliance with that condition should be submitted to my Office.
- that the findings and recommendations of the investigation have been communicated to the staff of the Planning Section, the Legal Section and An Bord Pleanála.

A copy of the arrangements and procedures to be followed if a language condition is applied was submitted to the Office on 26 July 2019. The main arrangements and procedures are:

- an assessment will be carried out on the linguistic impact of applications for developments in excess of three homes and it will be ensured that a suitable portion of the dwellings approved will be made available to those who have demonstrated a satisfactory fluency in the Irish language to the planning authority.
- before any such condition is applied or permission is granted, clarification shall be sought from the developer as to how compliance with such a condition will be ensured.
- where such permission is granted, a copy of the decision will be issued to An Coimisinéir Teanga as part of the normal notice to external bodies.
- in cases where conditions are not met, legal proceedings may be brought against the applicant/agent after the formal process has taken place. Through this process (1) a letter is sent to the applicant/agent requiring that the conditions are met within a timeframe, (2) a meeting is sought to confirm compliance, (3) if the non-compliance continues, a reminder issues after three weeks, (4) two weeks thereafter notice of the legal proceedings is given.

Ina theannta sin thug an Chomhairle le fios do m'Oifig go bhfuil ceithre iarratas ar chead pleanála faighte aici go dtí seo:

Suíomh

Beartaithe

don Fhorbairt

Sonraí

An Choill Daingean Uí Chúis Co. Chiarraí	Cead á lorg chun dhá fhoirgneamh dhá leibhéal a thógáil agus ceithre árasán i ngach foirgneamh díobh, spásanna páirceála, limistéir sheirbhísí seachtracha chun an méid réamhluaite a sheirbhísiú, na haonaid le bheith nasctha le seirbhísí poiblí & agus na hoibreacha láithreáin go léir ag an gCoill, Daingean Uí Chúis, Co. Chiarraí.
An Gróbh Bóthar an Spá Daingean Uí Chúis Co. Chiarraí	(a) Ceithre theach cónaithe a thógáil agus iad a nascadh leis an séarach poiblí. (b) Gach obair láithreán riachtanach a dhéanamh ar an láthair.
An Choill Daingean Uí Chúis Co. Chiarraí	1. Cead á lorg chun an méid seo a leanas a thógáil: cúig theach cónaithe ina mbeidh dhá sheomra leapa, dhá theach cónaithe is fiche ina mbeidh trí sheomra leapa, ceithre theach cónaithe ina mbeidh ceithre sheomra leapa, dhá árasán ina mbeidh dhá sheomra codlata agus deich n-árasán ina mbeidh seomra codlata arnháin arb é a bheidh iontu sraith árasán dhá stór ina mbeidh seacht n-aonad cónaithe, ceithre aonad cónaithe is fiche a bheith leathscoite agus dhá stór ar airde, agus trí fhoirgneamh árasán dhá stór. 2. Oibreacha gaolmhara forbartha agus seirbhíse láithreáin lena n-áirítear oibreacha um an tslí isteach chuig an láithreán, oibreacha um rochtain do choisithe, bóithre seirbhíse, cosáin, limistéir pháirceála, soilsiú, tírdhreachú, oibreacha coimhdeacha agus ceangal leis an séarach poiblí ar an gCoill, Daingean Uí Chúis, Co. Chiarraí.
Cnoc an Chairn An Gróbh Daingean Uí Chúis Co. Chiarraí	Cead á lorg chun (A) bloc árasán coirnéil dhá stór ina mbeidh cóiríocht san áiléar, agus ocht n-aonad ar fad ann, a thógáil, agus (B) athrú beag a chur ar na socrúithe páirceála don chuid seo den fhorbairt mar aon leis na háiseanna páirceála i gcomhair na dtithe cónaithe eile sa chomharsanacht, iad go léir ceangailte le seirbhísí poiblí agus oibreacha coimhdeacha le cur san áireamh chomh maith, i gCnoc an Chairn, An Gróbh, Daingean Uí Chúis.

The Council also informed my Office that it has received four applications for planning permission to date:

Location of

Proposed

Development

Details

The Wood Dingle Co Kerry	Permission to construct 2 number split level buildings consisting of 4 number apartments in each, car parking, external service amenity areas all to serve the aforementioned, the units to be connected to public services & also to include all associated site works at The Wood, Dingle Co Kerry.
Grove, Spa Road Dingle Co Kerry	(a) Construct four dwelling houses and connect them to the public services. (b) Do all necessary site works on the site.
The Wood Dingle Co Kerry	Permission to 1. Construct five no. two bedroom dwelling houses, twenty two no. three bedroom dwelling houses, four no. four bedroom dwelling houses, two no. two bedroom apartments and ten no. one bedroom apartments to be comprised of one two storey terrace containing seven dwellings, twenty-four two storey semi-detached dwellings and three two storey apartment buildings. 2. Associated site development and service works including site entrance works, pedestrian access works, service roadways, footpaths, parking areas, lighting, landscaping, ancillary works and connection to public sewer at The Wood, Dingle, Co Kerry.
Cnoc an Chairn The Grove Dingle Co Kerry	Permission to (A) construct a 2 storey corner apartment block with attic accommodation consisting of 8 number units and (B) slightly re-arrange car parking arrangements serving this element of the development as well as parking serving other proposed dwelling houses in the vicinity, all connected to public services and also to include associated site works at Cnoc an Chairn, The Grove, Dingle.

Scríobh m'Óifig chuig an gComhairle Contae ar an 24 Lúnasa 2020 agus meabhraíodh di sa chás go ndeonaítear an cead pleanála i leith na n-iarratas seo nach mór an Oifig seo a chur ar an eolas faoin tslí ar comhlíonadh na cuspóirí ábhartha de chuid Phlean Forbartha Chontae Chiarraí a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge. Lorgaíodh freisin, sa chás go gceanglófar coinníoll leis an gcead pleanála a bhaineann le húsáid na Gaeilge, na socruithe a chuirfear i bhfeidhm chun comhlíonadh an choinníll sin a dheimhniú do m'Óifig.

Scríobh mé chuig Comhairle Contae Chiarraí ag lorg tuilleadh faisnéise a chur ar fáil i dtaca leis na nósanna imeachta nó an modus operandi a leantar, nuair a chuirtear coinníoll Gaeilge le cead pleanála, chun a chinntiú go gcuirtear an coinníoll sin i bhfeidhm go héifeachtach.

Chuir an Chomhairle faisnéis bhreise faoi mo bhráid i bhfreagra dar dáta an 11 Meitheamh 2021. San fhaisnéis bhreise tugadh le fios gurb é an bealach praiticiúil a gcuirtear i bhfeidhm an coinníoll teanga ná trí choinníoll pleanála ina mbíonn ar an bhforbróir comhaontú a dhéanamh de réir alt 47 den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000. Cuireadh cóip de chomhaontú reatha faoi alt 47 ar fáil dom (uimh. 19/599). Tá an coinníoll teanga agus na socruithe don tástáil inniúlachta teanga luaite sa chomhaontú. Tá sé sonraithe sa chomhaontú sin go bhfuil ar na háitritheoirí, bídís ina n-úinéirí, ina léasaithe nó ina dtionóntaí, freastal ar agallamh in Oifigí na Comhairle Contae. Maireann an t-agallamh thart ar 30 nóiméad agus déantar tástáil ann ar chumas na n-iarrthóirí comhrá a dhéanamh i nGaeilge ar ábhair laethúla.

Sa chás go bhfuil coinníoll Gaeilge ceangailte le cead pleanála, déanann Rannóg Pleanála na Comhairle teagmháil leis an bhforbróir chun ainmneacha na ndaoine a d'ainmnigh an forbróir chun an réadmhaoin a dhíol leo a fháil. Tugann na daoine sin faoi thástáil Ghaeilge faoi mar atá leagtha amach sa choinníoll teanga a bhaineann leis an gcead pleanála. Má theipeann ar na hiarratasóirí sa tástáil Ghaeilge, déantar teagmháil leis an bhforbróir agus iarrtar orthu ceannaitheoirí eile a ainmniú. Cuireadh léaráid sreafa oibre ar an gcaoi a n-oibríonn an próiseas go praiticiúil faoi bhráid m'Óifige.

Ba cheart a thabhairt faoi deara freisin go ndearnadh gearán maidir leis an tslí ar thug an Chomhairle Contae faoi incháilitheacht daoine mar chainteoirí Gaeilge a dheimhniú chun críche coinníll a bhí ag gabháil le cead pleanála. Tá an cheist sin á himscrúdú ag an Oifig faoi láthair le Comhairle Contae Chiarraí.

Tá an léaráid le feiceáil in Aguisín C.

Príomhfhionnachtain

Tá teagmháil leanúnach ag m'Óifig le Comhairle Contae Chiarraí ar an ábhar seo.

Tús teagmhála: 24 Meitheamh 2019

Teagmháil is déanaí: 14 Meitheamh 2021

My Office wrote to the County Council on 24 August 2020 and reminded it that if planning permission is granted in respect of these applications my Office must be informed of how the relevant objectives of the Kerry County Development Plan have been complied with in relation to the Irish language. Where the planning permission requires a condition relating to the use of the Irish language, the arrangements to be put in place to ensure compliance with this condition were sought my Office.

I wrote to Kerry County Council again in May seeking further information on the procedures or modus operandi to be followed when an Irish language condition is attached to a planning permission, to ensure that such a condition is effectively enforced.

The Council submitted additional information to me in a reply dated 11 June 2021. The additional information indicated that, in practice, the language condition is applied through a planning condition whereby the developer is required to enter into an agreement in accordance with section 47 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. I have been provided with a copy of an existing section 47 agreement (no. 19/599). The language condition and arrangements for the language proficiency test are set out in this agreement. That agreement specifies that the occupiers, whether owners, lessees or tenants, are required to attend an interview at the County Council Offices. The interview lasts approximately 30 minutes and tests the candidates' ability to converse in Irish on everyday topics.

Where an Irish language condition is attached to a planning permission, the Council's Planning Department contacts the developer to obtain the names of the persons nominated by the developer to sell the property to them. These people take an Irish language test as set out in the language condition attached to the planning permission. If applicants fail the Irish test, the developer is contacted and asked to nominate alternative purchasers. A workflow diagram of how the process works in practice has been submitted to my Office.

It should also be noted that a complaint was made regarding the manner in which the County Council had undertaken ascertaining the qualification of persons as Irish speakers for the purpose of a condition attached to a planning permission. This issue is currently being investigated by the Office with Kerry County Council.

The diagram can be viewed in Appendix C.

Main finding

My Office is in ongoing contact with Kerry County Council on this matter.

Initial contact: 24 June 2019

Latest contact: 14 June 2021

Comhairle Contae na Mí



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Léirigh imscrúdú gur sháraigh Comhairle Contae na Mí na dualgais reachtúla teanga atá daingnithe sna rialacháin i dtaca le comharthaíocht faoi fho-alt 9(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 agus na dualgais reachtúla teanga maidir le comharthaí tráchtá.

Príomh-mholadh an imscrúdaithe

Sa tuarascáil imscrúdaithe, mhol mé don Chomhairle Contae na comharthaí a áiríodh san imscrúdú a cheartú nó a athrú, go gcoifí feasta leis na forálacha reachtúla teanga nuair a bheadh comharthaí á gcur in airde agus go ndaingneofaí nósanna imeachta le plé go cuí agus go tráthúil le gearáin faoi sháruithe ar an reachtaíocht teanga.

An obair iniúchta

Scríobh m'Oifig chuig Comhairle Contae na Mí i mí na Samhna 2020 ag lorg eolas cothrom le dáta ar an dul chun cinn a bhí déanta i dtaca le cur i bhfeidhm mholtaí an imscrúdaithe. I gcomhfhreagras ón gComhairle Contae dar dáta an 10 Nollaig 2020 agus an 11 Nollaig 2020, cuireadh fianaise ar fáil dúinn go raibh cuid de na comharthaí neamhghéilliúla ab ábhar don imscrúdú ceartaithe nó bainte anuas faoin tráth sin. Ina theannta sin, cuireadh ar fáil cóip de na cleachtais oibre atá daingnithe sa Chomhairle Contae chun plé go cuí agus go tráthúil le gearáin faoi sháruithe ar an reachtaíocht teanga.

Tugadh le fios gur réachtáladh cruinnithe idir an tOifigeach Gaeilge agus an tInnealtóir Sinsearach sa Rannóg Iompair. Ba é cuspóir na gcruinnithe athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar nósanna imeachta na Comhairle agus béim a leagan ar chomhlíonadh na ndualgas reachtúil teanga atá daingnithe sna rialacháin i dtaca le comharthaíocht faoi fho-alt 9(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 agus dualgais reachtúla teanga maidir le comharthaí tráchtá. Ceapadh teicneoir a bhfuil saineolas aige ar na dualgais reachtúla teanga a bhaineann le comharthaíocht mar phointe teagmhála don fhoireann atá freagrach as comharthaí.

Bhí roinnt soiléirithe de dhíth orainn i dtaca le roinnt de na comharthaí agus rinne m'Oifig teagmháil arís leis an gComhairle Contae. I gcomhfhreagras dar dáta an 8 Márta 2021, dúradh go bhfuil an Chomhairle i mbun an comhartha a bhfuil an botún cló air a leasú. Dearbhaíodh go bhfuil an chuid eile de na comharthaí ab ábhar don imscrúdú ceartaithe anois.

Príomhfhionnachtain

Tar éis dúinn faireachán a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh mholtaí an imscrúdaithe tá mé sásta go bhfuil cleachtais in áit ag an gComhairle Contae chun gearáin ó Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga á fhreagairt go tráthúil, agus go bhfuil céimeanna glactha aici chun comharthaíocht a bhí lochtach a cheartú.

Tús teagmhála: 11 Samhain 2020

Teagmháil is déanaí: 8 Márta 2020

Meath County Council



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

An investigation found that Meath County Council had breached the statutory language obligations set out in the signage regulations under subsection 9(1) of the Official Languages Act, 2003 and the statutory language obligations in relation to traffic signs.

Main recommendation of the investigation

In the investigation report, I recommended that the County Council correct or alter the signs which were the subject of the investigation, that the statutory language provisions should be followed when signs are being erected and that procedures be put in place for the proper and timely handling of complaints about breaches of language legislation.

The audit work

My Office wrote to Meath County Council in November 2020 requesting up-to-date information on the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the investigation. In correspondence from the County Council dated 10 December 2020 and 11 December 2020, we were provided with evidence that some of the non-conforming signs that were the subject of the investigation had been corrected or removed by that time. In addition, we were provided with a copy of the working practices put in place in the County Council to deal properly and in a timely manner with complaints about breaches of language legislation.

We were informed that meetings have taken place between the Irish Language Officer and the Senior Engineer in the Transport Section. The purpose of the meetings was to review the Council's procedures and to emphasise compliance with the statutory language duties as set out in the signage regulations under subsection 9(1) of the Official Languages Act 2003 and statutory language obligations in relation to traffic signs. A technician with specialist knowledge of the statutory language obligations relating to signage has been appointed as a contact point for the staff responsible for signage.

Some clarifications were needed in relation to some of the signs and my Office contacted the County Council again. In correspondence dated 8 March 2021, it was stated that the Council is amending the sign containing the typographical error. The Council confirmed that the remaining signs which were the subject of the investigation have now been corrected.

Main finding

Having monitored compliance with the recommendations of the investigation I am satisfied that the County Council has practices in place to respond to complaints from the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga in a timely manner, and that it has taken steps to correct erroneous signage.

Initial contact: 11 November 2020

Latest contact: 8 March 2020

Comhairle Contae Loch Garman



Léirigh imscrúdú gur sháraigh Comhairle Contae Loch Garman na dualgais reachtúla teanga atá daingnithe sna rialacháin i dtaca le comharthaíocht faoi fho-alt 9(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 agus dualgais reachtúla teanga maidir le comharthaí tráchtá.

Príomh-mholtaí an imscrúdaithe

Chomh maith leis na comharthaí a cheartú, mhol mé don Chomhairle Contae go gcuirfí i bhfeidhm aon leasuithe is gá chun go mbeadh córas éifeachtach i bhfeidhm chun go bhfiosrófar agus go bhfreagrófar gearáin go críochnúil agus go sásúil. Ina theannta sin, mhol mé nósanna imeachta leasaithe maidir le hordú comharthaí nua a eisiúint chuig an bhfoireann agus moltaí a chur faoi mo bhráid maidir leis na céimeanna breise atá beartaithe ag an gComhairle Contae d'fhonn a dheimhniú go bhfuil na nósanna imeachta sin ar eolas ag an bhfoireann agus á leanúint acu agus go bhfuil siad daingnithe mar ghnáthchleachtas ar fud na heagraíochta.

An obair iniúchta

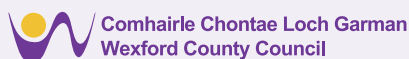
I mí Mheán Fómhair 2019, chuir an Chomhairle Contae in iúl go raibh gnólacht aistriúcháin fostaithe aici chun plé go cuí agus go tráthúil le gearáin faoi shárúithe ar reachtaíocht teanga agus chun an oibleagáid reachtúil atá leagtha síos i bhfo-alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla – nach mór freagra a thabhairt ar aon chomhfhreagras a fhaightear i scríbhinn nó go leictreonach sa teanga oifigiúil chéanna ina bhfuarthas an comhfhreagras sin – a chomhlíonadh.

Dheimhnigh an Chomhairle Contae sa chomhfhreagras céanna go raibh na comharthaí neamhghéilliúla ab ábhar don imscrúdú ceartaithe nó bainte anuas faoin tráth sin.

I ndiaidh dom an freagra sin a mheas, scríobh mé chuig an gComhairle Contae agus mheabhraigh mé di go ndearna m'Óifig imscrúdú a bhain le comharthaí neamhghéilliúla ar an gComhairle Contae sa bhliain 2015. Rinneadh tagairt do mholtaí ábhartha an imscrúdaithe sin sa tuarascáil is deireanaí a eisíodh. Dúradh go bhfuil sé tábhachtach, mar sin, go leanfaí le feidhmiú na socruithe atá déanta ag an gComhairle go leanúnach agus go meabhrófaí na riachtanais do na rannóga cuí ar bhonn leanúnach. Tugadh le fios go bhfuil m'Óifig ar fáil i gcónaí le haon chabhair nó comhairle a thabhairt.

Scríobh m'Óifig chuig Comhairle Contae Loch Garman i mí Eanáir 2020 agus iarradh go gcuirfí cóip de na nósanna imeachta leasaithe ar fáil don Oifig, chomh maith le cuntas ar an gcóras fiosraithe gearán atá i bhfeidhm chun a chinntiú go leantar na nósanna imeachta sin mar is cóir nuair a chuirtear an gearán ar aghaidh chuig na rannóga ábhartha. Bhí tagairt déanta ag an gComhairle ina litir i mí Mheán Fómhair do nósanna imeachta leasaithe atá in úsáid ag an gComhairle maidir le comharthaí nua; d'iarr m'Óifig go gcuirfí cóip de na nósanna imeachta leasaithe sin faoi bhráid na hOifige faoin 11 Feabhra 2020.

Wexford County Council



An investigation found that Wexford County Council had breached the statutory language duties set out in the signage regulations under subsection 9(1) of the Official Languages Act 2003 and statutory language obligations in relation to traffic signs.

Main findings of the investigation

In addition to correcting the signs, I urged the County Council to put in place any necessary reforms to ensure an effective system to investigate and respond thoroughly and satisfactorily to complaints. I also recommended revised procedures for staff in relation to the procurement of new signs and that recommendations be made to me in relation to the further steps proposed by the County Council in order to ensure that these procedures are known to and followed by the staff and are firmly established as normal practice throughout the organisation.

The audit work

In September 2019, the County Council indicated that it had employed a translation company to deal properly and in a timely manner with complaints about breaches of language legislation and to comply with the statutory obligation laid down in subsection 9(2) of the Official Languages Act – that any correspondence received in writing or electronically must be responded to in the same official language as that in which it was received.

In the same correspondence, the County Council confirmed that the signs which were the subject of the investigation had by then been corrected or removed.

Having considered this reply, I wrote to the County Council and reminded it that in 2015 my Office had carried out an investigation into the Council relating to non-compliant signage. The most recently issued report made reference to the relevant recommendations of that investigation. I emphasised how important it is that the arrangements made by the Council should continue to be implemented and that the relevant departments should be reminded of the requirements on a continuing basis. My Office informed the Council it remains available to provide any assistance or advice required.

My Office wrote to Wexford County Council in January 2020 requesting a copy of the revised procedures, together with an account of the complaints inquiry system in place to ensure that these procedures are properly followed when a complaint is forwarded to the relevant sections. The Council had referred, in its letter of September, to revised procedures used by the Council in relation to new signage; my Office asked that a copy of these revised procedures be provided to it by 11 February 2020.

I mí Feabhra chuir Comhairle Contae Loch Garman faoi bhráid na hOifige seo na nósanna imeachta leasaithe inar leagadh amach conas a chomhlíonfaí an dualgas reachtúil le plé go cuí agus go tráthúil le gearáin faoi sháruithe ar reachtaíocht teanga. Cuireadh cóip de na nósanna imeachta leasaithe maidir le comharthaíocht faoi bhráid na hOifige; leagtar amach sna nósanna imeachta sin an bealach a gcoífeáir go cuí leis na forálacha reachtúla teanga atá daingnithe sna rialacháin faoi fho-alt 9(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla i gcás aon chomharthaíocht nua a chuirtear in airde. Sa chomhfhreagras céanna, tugadh le fios gur eagraíodh cur i láthair don fhoireann ar fad atá freagrach as comharthaíocht, gur áiríodh eolas ar an reachtaíocht, eolas ar na nósanna imeachta agus gur tugadh treoir maidir leis an nGaeilge a úsáid ar chomharthaíocht sa seisiún. D'fhreastail ochtar den fhoireann ar an gcur i láthair; ina measc sin bhí Bainisteoir Ceantair Bhardasaigh agus Innealtóirí Ceantair.

Príomhfhionnachtain

Bhí teagmháil ar bhonn rialta idir m'Oifig agus an Chomhairle maidir le cur i bhfeidhm na moltaí a rinne mé san imscrúdú. Tá mé sásta go bhfuil socruithe déanta ag an gComhairle chun dul i ngleic leis an sárú ar an reachtaíocht teanga i gcás comharthaíochta agus go bhfuil córas cuí i bhfeidhm aici chun plé go tráthúil le gearáin faoi sháruithe ar an reachtaíocht teanga a chuirtear faoina bráid.

Tús teagmhála: 27 Meán Fómhair 2019

Teagmháil is déanaí: 4 Márta 2020

Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach

Léirigh imscrúdú gur sháraigh Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach na dualgais reachtúla teanga atá daingnithe sna rialacháin i dtaca le comharthaíocht faoi fho-alt 9(1) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 agus dualgais reachtúla teanga maidir le comharthaí tráchta.



CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOCHA

Príomh-mholtaí an imscrúdaithe

Chomh maith leis na comharthaí a áiríodh san imscrúdú a cheartú nó a athrú, mhol mé nósanna imeachta leasaithe a eisiúint chuig an bhfoireann maidir le hordú comharthaí nua agus moltaí a chur faoi mo bhráid maidir leis na céimeanna breise atá beartaithe ag an gComhairle Contae d'fhonn a dheimhniú go bhfuil na nósanna imeachta sin ar an eolas ag an bhfoireann agus á leanúint acu agus go bhfuil na nósanna imeachta sin daingnithe mar ghnáthchleachtas ar fud na heagraíochta. Mhol mé freisin go gcuirfí i gcrích pé leasuithe ba ghá a dhéanamh ar an bpróiseas fiosraithe gearán chun go mbeadh córas éifeachtach i bhfeidhm faoina bhfiosrófaí agus faoina bhfreagrófaí go críochnúil agus go sásúil aon ghearán ón Oifig seo, laistigh den sprioc-ama a sonraíodh.

In February Wexford County Council submitted to my Office the revised procedures setting out how the statutory obligation would be complied with to deal properly and in a timely manner with complaints about breaches of language legislation. A copy of the revised procedures relating to signage was submitted to this Office; these procedures set out how the statutory language provisions specified in the regulations under subsection 9(1) of the Official Languages Act for new signage will be complied with appropriately. In the same correspondence, it was advised that a presentation was organised to all staff responsible for signage, and that the session included information on the legislation, information on procedures and guidance regarding the use of Irish on signage. Eight staff members attended the presentation; these included a Municipal District Manager and Area Engineers.

Main finding

My Office and the Council had regular contact in relation to the implementation of the investigation recommendations. I am satisfied that the Council has made arrangements to address the breach of language legislation relating to signage and that it has an appropriate system in place to deal in a timely manner with complaints about breaches of language legislation submitted to it.

Initial contact: 27 September 2019

Latest contact: 4 March 2020

Carlow County Council

An investigation found that Carlow County Council had breached the statutory language obligations set out in signage regulations under subsection 9(1) of the

Official Languages Act 2003 and statutory language obligations in relation to traffic signs.

Main findings of the investigation

In addition to correcting or altering the signs included in the investigation, I also recommended revised procedures for staff in relation to the procurement of new signs and that recommendations be made to me in relation to the further steps proposed by the County Council in order to ensure that these procedures are known to and followed by staff and that these procedures are firmly established as normal practice throughout the organisation. I also recommended that the necessary revisions be made to the complaints investigation process so as to have an effective system in place for thoroughly and satisfactorily investigating and responding to any complaint from my Office, within the specified timeframe.

An obair iniúchta

Scríobh m'Óifig chuig Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach ar an 2 Nollaig 2020, ag lorg cuntas cothrom le dáta ar na céimeanna a bhí glactha aici chun moltaí an imscrúdaithe a chur i bhfeidhm.

I mí na Nollag 2020, cuireadh fianaise ar fáil dúinn go raibh na comharthaí ab ábhar don imscrúdú bainte anuas nó ceartaithe faoin tráth sin, seachas an comhartha turasóireachta agus na comharthaí atá ar na meaisíní ticéad. Tugadh le fios go bhfuil meaisíní ticéad nua le teacht in áit na gceann atá ann, agus téacs dátheangach san áireamh iontu, agus go mbeifí á suiteáil i mí Feabhra 2021.

Ar an 1 Márta 2021 lorg an Oifig seo breis eolais agus soiléirithe ar an gComhairle Contae. Lorgaíodh dearbhú go bhfuil an obair ar na meaisíní ticéad tugtha chun críche agus lorgaíodh eolas cothrom le dáta ar an dul chun cinn atá déanta i dtaca leis an gcomhartha turasóireachta. Chomh maith leis sin iarradh ar an eagraíocht faisnéis a chur ar fáil i dtaca leis an dá mholadh eile a rinneadh sa tuarascáil imscrúdaithe – is iad sin fianaise a chur ar fáil dúinn gur eisíodh na nósanna imeachta maidir le dearadh agus ordú comharthaí nua ar an bhfoireann, agus moltaí a chur faoi mo bhráid maidir leis na céimeanna breise atá beartaithe ag an gComhairle Contae d'fhonn a dheimhniú go bhfuil na nósanna imeachta sin ar eolas ag an bhfoireann agus á leanúint acu agus go bhfuil na nósanna imeachta sin daingnithe mar ghnáthchleachtas ar fud na heagraíochta. Chomh maith leis sin, iarradh go gcuirfí cuntas faoi bhráid na hOifige ar aon leasuithe atá curtha i gcrích ag an gComhairle ar an bpróiseas fiosraithe gearán agus cuntas a thabhairt faoi na bearta lena gcinntítear go gcuirtear i bhfeidhm iad chun go mbeidh córas éifeachtach i bhfeidhm.

Thug an Chomhairle le fios i gcomhfhreagras uathí ar an 9 Márta 2021 go bhfuil na comharthaí le suiteáil ar na meaisíní ticéad faoi dheireadh mhí an Mhárta 2021. I mí Iúil, lorg m'Óifig dearbhú go bhfuil an obair tugtha chun críche. Ní chuir an Chomhairle Contae aon dearbhú ar fáil go dtí seo.

Príomhfhionnachtain

Níl uasdátú faighte ag m'Óifig go dtí seo ag dearbhú go bhfuil na moltaí seo curtha i bhfeidhm. Sa chás go measaim nach gcuirtear moltaí imscrúdaithe i bhfeidhm go cuí laistigh d'achar réasúnta ama, féadfaidh mé tuarascáil ar an ábhar a leagan faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais.

Tús teagmhála: 2 Nollaig 2020

Teagmháil is déanaí: 1 Márta 2021

The audit work

My Office wrote to Carlow County Council on 2 December 2020, seeking an update on the steps it had taken to implement the recommendations of the investigation.

In December 2020, evidence was provided that the signs which were the subject of the investigation had been removed or corrected, apart from the tourist sign and the signs on the ticketing machines. We were informed that new ticketing machines, featuring bilingual text, were to replace existing ones and were to be installed in February 2021.

On 1 March 2021 my Office sought further information and clarification from the County Council. We sought confirmation that work on the ticketing machines had been completed and we asked for up-to-date information on the progress made on the tourist sign. The organisation was also asked to provide information on the other two recommendations I had made in the investigation report – namely, to provide us with evidence that the procedures for the design and procurement of new signs have been issued to staff, and to provide me with proposals on the further steps planned by the County Council to ensure that staff are aware of and follow these procedures and that these procedures are firmly established as normal practice throughout the organisation. In addition, the Council was asked to submit to the Office an account of any revisions made by the Council to the complaints investigation process and to account for the measures put in place to ensure operation of an effective system.

The Council indicated in correspondence on 9 March 2021 that the signs were to be installed on the ticketing machines by the end of March 2021. In July, my Office sought confirmation that the work had been completed. To date no such confirmation has been provided by the County Council.

Main finding

My Office has so far not received an update confirming that these recommendations have been implemented. Where I consider that recommendations of investigation are not properly implemented within a reasonable period of time, I may lay a report on the matter before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Initial contact: 2 December 2020

Latest contact: 1 March 2021

Comhairle Contae Lú

Léirigh imscrúdú gur sháraigh Comhairle Contae Lú na dualgais teanga atá sna forálacha reachtúla seo a leanas:

- alt 9(2) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, trí chumarsáid leis an bpost leictreonach i nGaeilge a fhreagairt i mBéarla,
- alt 18(1) den Acht toisc nár cuireadh i bhfeidhm gealltanais áirithe a daingníodh i Scéim Teanga na Comhairle Contae a bhaineann le soláthar seirbhísí agus eolais i nGaeilge ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle, agus
- na rialacháin agus na hordacháin atá déanta faoi fho-ailt 95(2) agus 95(16) den Acht um Thrácht ar Bhóithre, 1961 i gcás comharthaí tráchta áirithe.

Príomh-mholtaí an imscrúdaithe

Mhol mé don Chomhairle pé socruithe ba ghá a chur i bhfeidhm chun a chinntiú go gcloífi leis an dualgas reachtúil atá uirthi aon chumarsáid i scríbhinn, nó leis an bpost leictreonach a fhaightear i nGaeilge a fhreagairt sa teanga chéanna. Mhol mé go n-ullmhófaí plean gníomhaíochta maidir le heolas agus seirbhísí a chur ar fáil as Gaeilge ar a suíomh gréasáin, i gcomhréir leis na gealltanais atá déanta ina Scéim Teanga agus go ndéanfaí socruithe san eagraíocht chun a chinntiú go gcloífear leis na gealltanais sin feasta nuair a bheidh athruithe á gcur i bhfeidhm ar an suíomh nó faisnéis nó saoráidí nua á gcur air. Mhol mé freisin na comharthaí tráchta a sonraíodh san imscrúdú a cheartú nó a athrú agus go ndaingneofaí cleachtais oibre sa Chomhairle chun plé go cuí agus go tráthúil le gearáin ón Oifig seo.

An obair iniúchta

Scríobh m'Oifig chuig Comhairle Contae Lú ar an 20 Samhain 2020 ag lorg eolas cothrom le dáta ar na céimeanna atá glactha aici chun moltaí an imscrúdaithe a chur i bhfeidhm. Ar an 24 Samhain 2020 tháinig ríomhphost ag glacadh buíochais as an litir imscrúdaithe agus ag tabhairt le fios go mbeifí i dteagmháil leis an Oifig arís roimh an spriocdháta.

Cuireadh nóta chuig an gComhairle ar an 17 Feabhra 2021 ag fiosrú cén uair a bheadh an freagra againn. Tugadh le fios i ríomhphost ar an 25 Feabhra 2021 go raibh an t-imscrúdú fós á phlé ag lucht bainistíochta na Comhairle agus go mbeifí i dteagmháil le m'Oifig go luath.

Eisíodh meabhrúchán ar an 25 Márta 2021 nuair nach raibh aon fhreagra faighte.

Príomhfhionnachtain

Níor éirigh leis an gComhairle freagra críochnúil a chur ar fáil don imscrúdú seo in ainneoin ár gcuid iarrachtaí go dtí seo. Sa chás go measaim nach gcuirtear moltaí imscrúdaithe i bhfeidhm go cuí laistigh d'achar réasúnta ama, féadfaidh mé tuarascáil ar an ábhar a leagan faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais.

Tús teagmhála: 20 Samhain 2020

Teagmháil is déanaí: 25 Márta 2021



Louth County Council

An investigation found that Louth County Council had breached the language obligations in the following statutory provisions:

- section 9(2) of the Official Languages Act 2003, by replying in English to communications received by electronic mail in Irish,
- section 18(1) of the Act due to the failure to implement certain commitments confirmed in the County Council's Language Scheme relating to the provision of services and information in Irish on the Council's website, and
- the regulations and directions made under subsections 95(2) and 95(16) of the Road Traffic Act 1961 regarding certain traffic signs.

Main findings of the investigation

I advised the Council to put in place the necessary arrangements to ensure compliance with its statutory obligation to respond in Irish to any written or electronic mail received in that language. I recommended that an action plan be prepared for the provision of information and services in Irish on its website, in accordance with the commitments made in its Language Scheme and that arrangements be made in the organisation to ensure that these commitments are adhered to in future when introducing changes to the site or new information or facilities. I also recommended the correction or alteration of the traffic signs specified in the investigation and the establishment of working practices in the Council to deal properly and in a timely manner with complaints from my Office.

The audit work

My Office wrote to Louth County Council on 20 November 2020 asking for up-to-date information on the steps it has taken to implement the recommendations of the investigation. On 24 November 2020 we received an email thanking us for the investigation letter and indicating that the Council would contact the Office again before the deadline.

My Office sent a note to the Council on 17 February 2021 enquiring as to when a response would be forthcoming. An email on 25 February 2021 indicated that the investigation was still being discussed by Council management and that my Office would be contacted soon.

A reminder issued on 25 March 2021 when no reply had been received.

Main finding

Despite our efforts so far, the Council has been unable to provide a complete response to this investigation. Where I consider that recommendations of investigation are not properly implemented within a reasonable period of time, I may lay a report on the matter before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Initial contact: 20 November 2020

Latest contact: 25 March 2021

Tuarascálacha Oireachtais

I gcomhréir le fo-alt 26(5) d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, ceadaítear dom, mar Choimisinéir Teanga, tuarascáil a chur faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas má mheasaim nár chuir comhlacht poiblí i ngníomh aon chuid de na moltaí i dtuarascáil ar imscrúdú a rinne mé. Tá dhá thuarascáil a bhaineann le himscrúduithe a ndearnadh faireachán cuimsitheach orthu anuraidh le cur faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas agam in 2021.

An Garda Síochána

Leag mé tuarascáil faoin líon íseal Gardaí le Gaeilge sa Gaeltacht faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais ar an 25 Aibreán 2021. Shocraigh mé an tuarascáil a leagan faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas de bharr nach raibh moltaí imscrúdaithe a rinneadh in 2011 curtha i bhfeidhm ag an nGarda Síochána agus nárbh fhéidir liom aon chéim bhreise a ghlacadh chun a chur ina luí ar an nGarda Síochána an méid sin a dhéanamh.

Tá dualgas reachtúil ar Choimisinéir an Gharda Síochána, faoi fho-alt 33(2) d'Acht an Gharda Síochána, 2005; a mhéid is indéanta, a chinntiú gur comhaltaí den fhórsa atá líofa sa Ghaeilge a chuirtear ar dualgas i ndúiche ina bhfuil limistéar Gaeltachta. Léirigh an t-imscrúdú a tugadh chun críche i mí na Nollag 2011 nár chomhlíon an Garda Síochána a ndualgais reachtúla teanga comhaltaí den fhórsa atá inniúil go leor sa Ghaeilge a chur ar dualgas i limistéar Gaeltachta Dhún na nGall.

Rinneadh moladh sonrath in imscrúdú 2011 go bhfiosródh an Garda Síochána an soláthar foirne ar fud na Gaeltachta lena chinntiú go rabhthas ag comhlíonadh na ndualgais reachtúla teanga atá leagtha ar an nGarda Síochána in Acht an Gharda Síochána, 2005 agus Scéim Teanga an Gharda Síochána, 2009-2012.

Fuarthas amach, mar thoradh ar phróiseas faireacháin a rinne m'Oifig, nach bhfuil ach 35 Garda as 95 Garda ina iomláine atá lonnaithe i stáisiúin Ghaeltachta, líofa a ndóthain i nGaeilge lena ndualgais a chomhlíonadh sa teanga sin, de réir chóras féinmheasúnaithe an Gharda Síochána féin.

Bhí deich mbliana caite ó tugadh faoin imscrúdú tosaigh agus ní fhéadfainn, mar Choimisinéir Teanga, glacadh leis go raibh an suíomh reatha géilliúil do na dualgais atá ar an nGarda Síochána faoi fho-alt 33(2) d'Acht an Gharda Síochána, 2005, cé gur aithin mé dúthracht an Choimisinéara féin maidir le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge laistigh den Gharda Síochána.

Is ar an mbonn sin a chinn mé tuarascáil a chur faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais. Thug Coimisinéir an Gharda Síochána fianaise ar an ábhar do Chomhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus Phobal Labhartha na Gaeilge ar an 12 Bealtaine 2021.

Reports to Oireachtas Éireann

In accordance with subsection 26(5) of the Official Languages Act 2003, I am permitted, as Coimisinéir Teanga, to lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas if I am of the opinion that a public body did not implement any part of the recommendations contained in a report on an investigation I had undertaken. Two reports relating to investigations which were audited comprehensively last year are to be submitted to both Houses of the Oireachtas in 2021.

An Garda Síochána

I laid a report regarding the low complement of Irish-speaking Gardaí in the Gaeltacht before the Houses of the Oireachtas on 25 April 2021. I decided to lay the report before both Houses of the Oireachtas as the recommendations of an investigation carried out in 2011 had not been implemented by An Garda Síochána and as I was unable to undertake any additional measures to impress upon An Garda Síochána to do so.

Under subsection 33(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána has a statutory obligation to ensure that members of the force who are fluent in Irish are stationed in a district that includes a Gaeltacht area, as far as practicable. The investigation, which was completed in December 2011, found that An Garda Síochána did not comply with its statutory language obligations to station members of the force who are sufficiently proficient in Irish in the Donegal Gaeltacht area.

A specific recommendation was made in the 2011 investigation that An Garda Síochána should examine staffing throughout the Gaeltacht to ensure compliance with the statutory language obligations pertaining to An Garda Síochána in the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and An Garda Síochána's Language Scheme 2009-2012.

As a result of a monitoring process undertaken by my Office, it was ascertained that only 35 Gardaí, out of a total of 95 assigned to Gaeltacht stations, are sufficiently proficient in Irish to allow them carry out their duties in that language, according to An Garda Síochána's own self-assessment system.

Ten years have passed since the initial investigation and as Coimisinéir Teanga I could not accept that the current situation constituted compliance by An Garda Síochána with the statutory obligation in subsection 33(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, although I acknowledged the Commissioner's personal diligence in promoting the Irish language within An Garda Síochána.

It was on this basis that I determined to lay this report before the Houses of the Oireachtas. The Garda Commissioner gave evidence to Comhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus Phobal Labhartha na Gaeilge on this matter on May 12th, 2021.

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide (Eircode)

Léirigh imscrúdú a chuir m'Oifig i gcrích i 2015 gur sháraigh an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide an dualgas reachtúil teanga maidir le cur i bhfeidhm a scéime teanga chomh fada is a bhain sé leis an úsáid a bhí á baint ag an gcóras Eircode as logainmneacha Gaeltachta. Tá an dualgas reachtúil ar an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide sa chás seo agus ní Eircode féin, ná an Post, a dháil na héirchóid, mar gurb í an Roinn atá freagrach as an gconradh don chóras a bhronnadh agus a stiúradh.

Cuireadh tús leis an bpróiseas faireacháin ar chur i bhfeidhm mholtaí an imscrúdaithe le linn na bliana 2016. Bhí iliomad teagmhálacha idir m'Oifig agus oifigigh na Roinne Cumarsáide ón uair sin i leith. Mheabhraigh mé don Roinn i mí Aibreáin 2019 gur chóir gur i nGaeilge amháin a bheadh na logainmneacha ábhartha Gaeltachta ar an gcóras Eircode chun go dtabharfaí feidhm chruinn do ghealltanais na scéime agus moltaí an imscrúdaithe. Cuireadh in iúl don Roinn go raibh gearáin fós á bhfáil ag m'Oifig ó dhaoine den phobal go bhfuil a gcuid seoltaí á n-úsáid ag comhlachtaí i mBéarla i gcónaí.

Dheimhnigh an Roinn i mí an Mheithimh 2019 go rabhthas tar éis scríobh chuig an bPost, ar leo na cearta ar an mbunachar sonraí a sholáthraíonn na seoltaí poist, ag iarraidh orthu a chinntiú gur i nGaeilge amháin a bheadh gach logainm ábhartha Gaeltachta.

I mí na Samhna 2019 dhearbhaigh an Post nach bhféadfaí an leagan Béarla de sheoltaí Gaeltachta a bhaint dá mbunachar sonraí mar go dteastaíonn sé le cruinnseachadh litreacha a chinntiú. An chúis atá leis sin, a dúradh, ná go n-úsáideann lear maith daoine seoltaí Béarla sa Ghaeltacht. Dúirt an Post go bhfuil dualgas reachtúil orthu faoi ComReg cloí le spriocanna áirithe seachadta agus go mbeadh sé sin dodhéanta gan an leagan Béarla de na seoltaí a bheith sa bhunachar acu. Tugadh le fios go bhféadfadh sé amach anseo go mbeadh giuirléid láimhe ag fir agus mná poist a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ina cúnamh le seoltaí a aithint.

Ar ábhar eile, thug an Roinn le fios go raibh cúrsaí ag bogadh ar aghaidh leis an uasdátú ar na bearnaí sna leaganacha Gaeilge de logainmneacha Gaeltachta atá sa bhunachar sonraí ar a bhfuil an córas Eircode ag brath. Cé gur léir dom go bhfuil iarracht déanta ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide teacht ar réiteach sa chás seo trí iarracht a dhéanamh iachall a chur ar an bPost a bhunachar sonraí seoltaí a leasú, ionas gur i nGaeilge amháin a bheadh gach logainm Gaeltachta ábhartha, is léir nár éirigh leis na hiarrachtaí sin.

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (Eircode)

An investigation carried out by my Office in 2015 revealed that the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications had breached the statutory language obligation in relation to the implementation of its language scheme in so far as it related to the use of Gaeltacht placenames by the Eircode system. In this case, the statutory obligation falls upon the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and not upon Eircode itself or An Post, which distributed the eircodes, as the Department is responsible for granting and regulating the contract.

The monitoring process of the implementation of the investigation's recommendations was initiated during 2016. There has been much correspondence between my Office and the Department of Communications' officers since that time. I reminded the Department in April 2019 that the relevant Gaeltacht placenames should be in Irish only on the Eircode system in order to implement correctly the commitment in the scheme as well as the recommendations of the investigation. I notified the Department that I am still receiving complaints from members of the public regarding bodies continuing to use their addresses in English.

The Department confirmed in June 2019 that it had written to An Post, who owns the rights to all the addresses in the database used by the Eircode system, requesting that all relevant Gaeltacht placenames be in Irish only.

In November 2019 An Post asserted that English forms of Gaeltacht addresses cannot be removed from its database as they are required to ensure correct delivery of letters. The reason given for this was that a good deal of people use English addresses in the Gaeltacht. An Post stated that it has a statutory obligation, under ComReg, to adhere to certain distribution objectives and that this would be impossible without the English version of the addresses in its database. We were informed that postmen and postwomen could in future have a handheld device which could assist in recognising addresses.

The Department also noted that slow progress was being made with updating the Irish language versions of Gaeltacht placenames in the database on which the Eircode system relies. Whilst it is apparent to me that the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has made an effort to achieve a solution in this case by attempting to get An Post to amend the addresses in its database so that all relevant Gaeltacht placenames are in Irish only, these efforts have been to no avail, however.

Dá thoradh seo ar fad, tá logainmneacha Gaeltachta i mBéarla fós á n-úsáid ag Eircode chomh maith leis na leaganacha oifigiúla Gaeilge. Ciallaíonn sé sin go bhfuil na leaganacha Béarla á n-úsáid go minic mar réamhshocrú ag gnóilachtaí tráchtála. Léirigh an t-imscrúdú gur ar an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide atá an fhreagracht ina leith seo i ndeireadh na dála, de bharr fhoráil reachtúil a scéime teanga. Dá réir sin, tá mé chun tuarascáil a leagan faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais mar gheall ar easpa géilliúlachta an chórais Eircode d'fhoráil i scéim teanga na Roinne i dtaca le logainmneacha Gaeltachta.

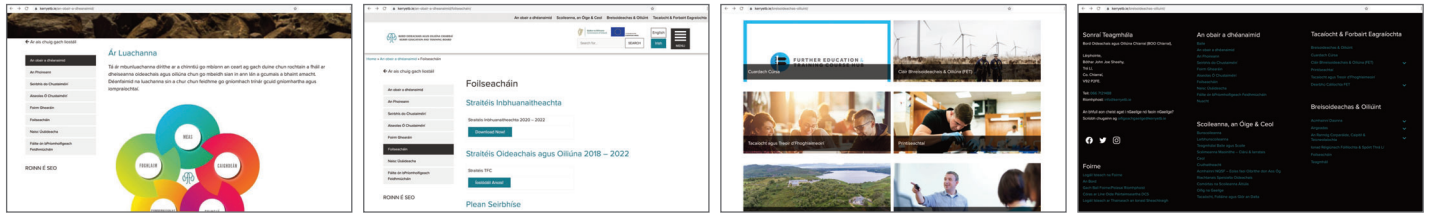
As a result, Gaeltacht place names continue to be used in English by Eircode along with the official Irish versions. This means that the English versions are often used by default by commercial companies. The investigation showed that the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications is ultimately responsible for this, in accordance with the statutory requirement of its language scheme. Accordingly, I am laying a report before the Houses of the Oireachtas on the non-compliance of the Eircode system with a provision in the Department's language scheme in relation to Gaeltacht placenames.

AGUISÍNÍ

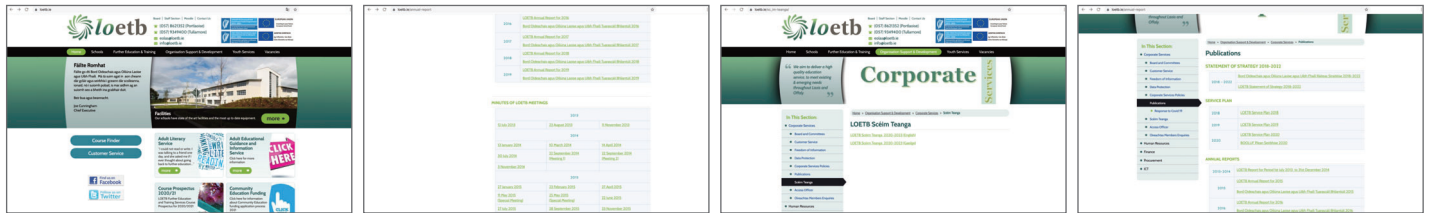
APPENDICES

AGUISÍN A: Boird Oideachais agus Oiliúna | APPENDIX A: Education and Training Boards

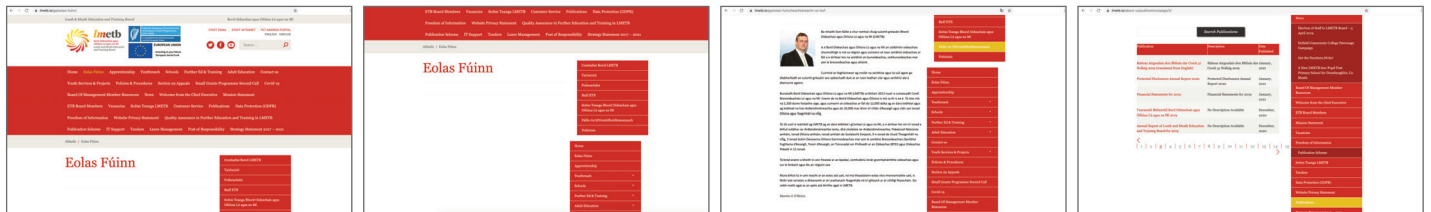
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chiarraí | Kerry Education and Training Board



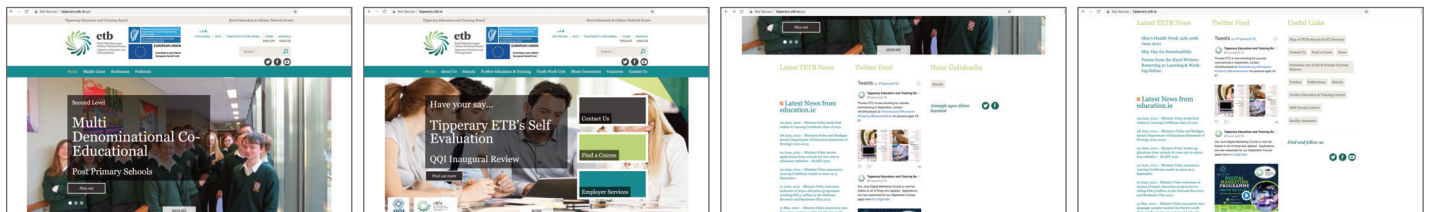
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí | Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board



Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí | Louth and Meath Education and Training Board

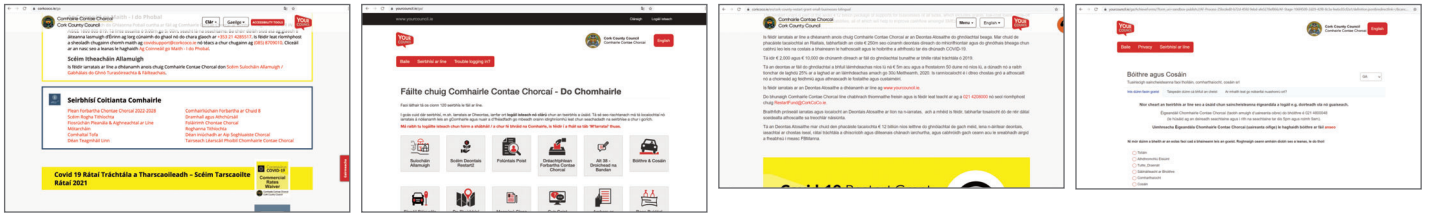


Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Thiobraid Árann | Tipperary Education and Training Board

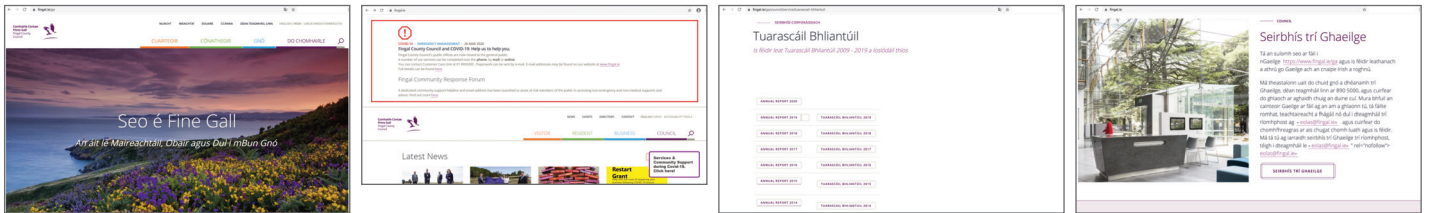


AGUISÍN B: Suíomhanna Gréasáin na nUdarás Áitiúil | APPENDIX B: Local Authority Websites

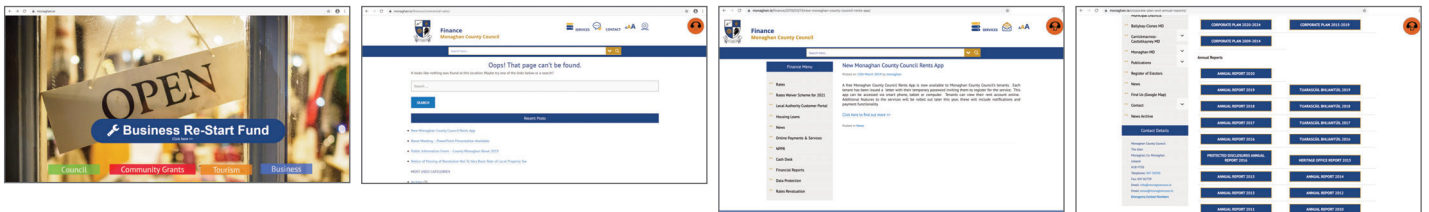
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí | Cork County Council



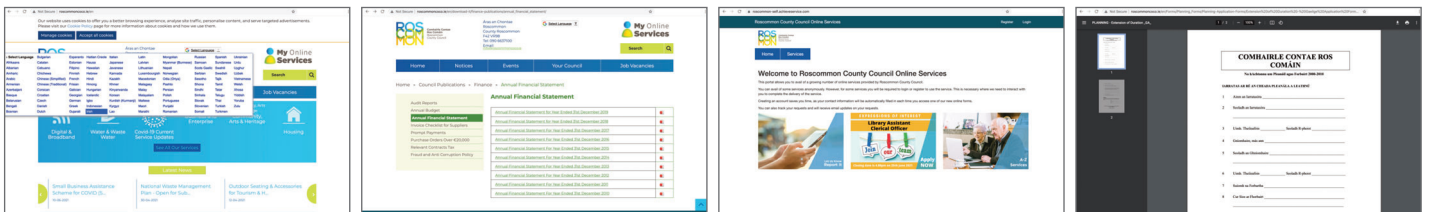
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall | Fingal County Council



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin | Monaghan County Council



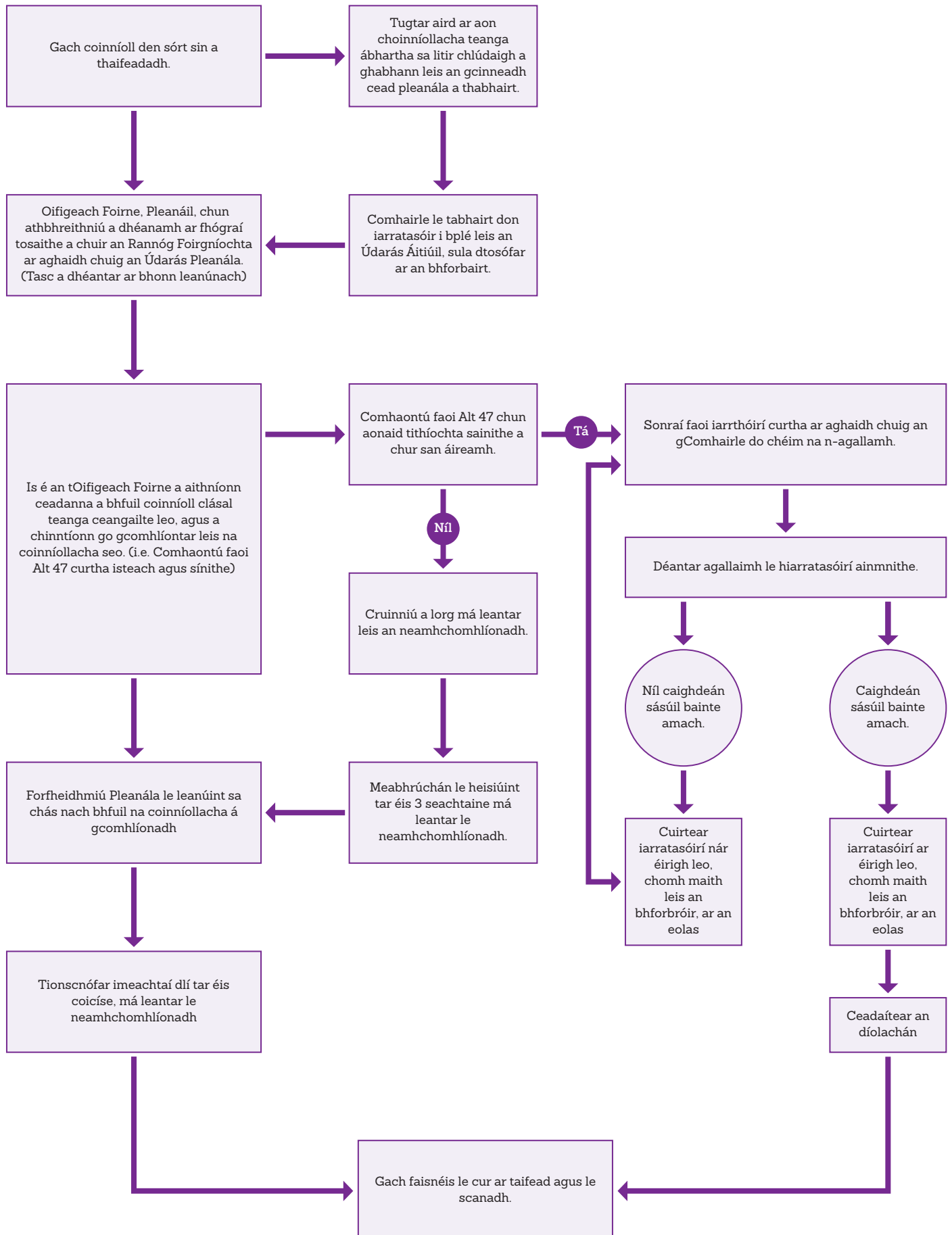
Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin | Roscommon County Council



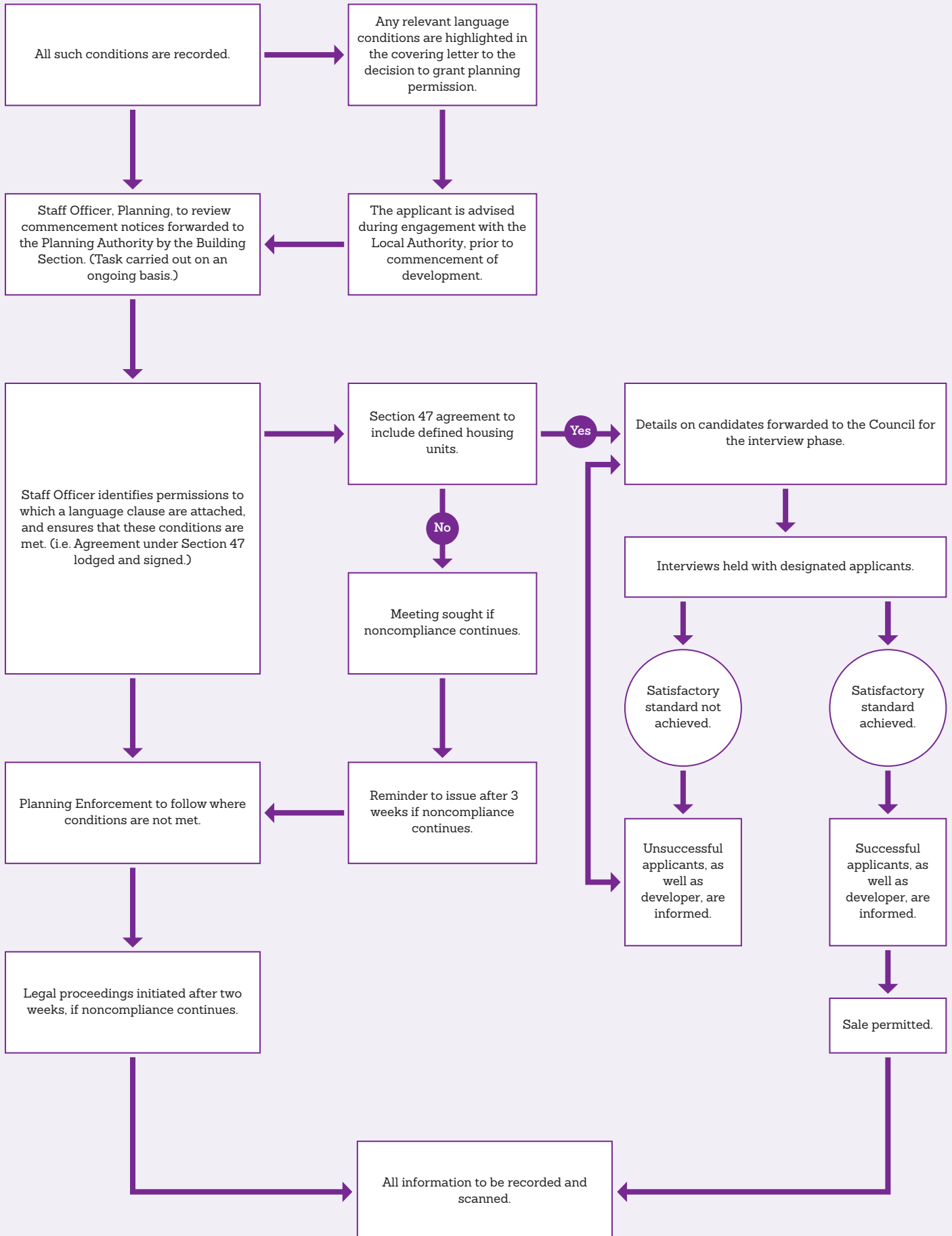
Comhairle Contae Shligigh | Sligo County Council



AGUISÍN C: Nós imeachta inmheánach maidir le comhlíonadh choinníoll na Gaeilge a chinntiú.



APPENDIX C: Internal procedure to ensure compliance with the Irish language condition.



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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