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**An Bille fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanáí agus an Teaghlach (Leasú), 2021**  
**Child and Family Agency (Amendment) Bill 2021**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh*

*As initiated*

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**AN BILLE FÁN nGNÍOMHAIREACHT UM LEANAÍ AGUS AN TEAGHLACH  
(LEASÚ), 2021  
CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh  
As initiated*

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CONTENTS

Section

1. Definition
2. Amendment of section 2 of Principal Act
3. Amendment of section 3 of Principal Act
4. Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act
5. Amendment of section 13 of Principal Act
6. Amendment of section 14 of Principal Act
7. Amendment of section 15 of Principal Act
8. Amendment of section 16 of Principal Act
9. Amendment of section 17 of Principal Act
10. Amendment of section 18 of Principal Act
11. Amendment of section 19 of Principal Act
12. Amendment of section 20 of Principal Act
13. Amendment of section 21 of Principal Act
14. Amendment of section 29 of Principal Act
15. Amendment of section 40 of Principal Act
16. Amendment of section 41 of Principal Act
17. Amendment of section 42 of Principal Act
18. Amendment of section 44 of Principal Act
19. Amendment of section 45 of Principal Act
20. Amendment of section 46 of Principal Act
21. Amendment of section 47 of Principal Act
22. Amendment of section 48 of Principal Act
23. Amendment of section 51 of Principal Act
24. Amendment of section 52 of Principal Act
25. Amendment of section 56 of Principal Act

26. Amendment of section 59 of Principal Act
27. Amendment of section 70 of Principal Act
28. Amendment of section 94 of Principal Act
29. Amendment of section 95 of Principal Act
30. Short title and commencement

ACTS REFERRED TO

Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40)

Education (Welfare) Act 2000 (No. 22)





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**AN BILLE FÁN nGNÍOMHAIREACHT UM LEANAÍ AGUS AN TEAGHLACH  
(LEASÚ), 2021  
CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021**

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# Bill

*entitled*

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An Act to provide for the transfer of certain functions of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth under the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 to the Minister for Education and for that purpose to amend the Child and Family Agency Act 2013; and to provide for related matters.

**Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:**

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## **Definition**

1. In this Act, “Principal Act” means the Child and Family Agency Act 2013.

## **Amendment of section 2 of Principal Act**

2. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following definition:

“ ‘education welfare functions’ means—

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- (a) in the case of the Agency, the functions of the Agency under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 transferred to it by section 72, and
- (b) in the case of the Minister for Education, the functions of that Minister under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000;”.

## **Amendment of section 3 of Principal Act**

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3. Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of “and the Minister for Education” after “Minister” where “Minister” first occurs in that section.

## **Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act**

4. Section 8(1) of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) in paragraph (f), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education, having regard to the performance of that Minister’s education welfare functions,” after “the Minister”, and
- (b) in paragraph (g), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education, in respect of the education welfare functions of the Agency” after “the Agency”.

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**Amendment of section 13 of Principal Act**

**5. Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended—**

(a) in subsection (2)—

(i) in paragraph (c), by the insertion of “and the Minister for Education” after “Minister”, and

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(ii) by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph (f):

“(f) other particulars—

(i) that the Agency considers appropriate,

(ii) as the Minister after consulting the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education may require, and

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(iii) as the Minister for Education, having regard to the performance of his or her education welfare functions and his or her functions under this Act, may require,

and”,

and

15

(b) in subsection (3), by the insertion of “and the Minister for Education” after “the Minister”.

**Amendment of section 14 of Principal Act**

**6. Section 14 of the Principal Act is amended—**

(a) in subsection (1)—

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(i) in paragraph (a), by the substitution of “functions,” for “functions, and”,

(ii) in paragraph (b)(ii), by the substitution of “Minister, and” for “Minister.”, and

(iii) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (b):

“(c) without delay, furnish the Minister for Education with information regarding—

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(i) any occurrence or development that, in the opinion of the Agency, the Minister for Education is likely to consider significant for the performance of his or her functions (whether under this Act or otherwise), or

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(ii) any other occurrence or development that falls within a class of occurrences or developments that has, having regard to his or her functions (whether under this Act or otherwise), been specified in writing by the Minister for Education.”,

(b) in subsection (2), by the substitution of “under subsection (1)(b)” for “under subsection (1)”,

35

(c) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (2):



“(2A) The Minister for Education may issue guidelines in relation to the furnishing of information under subsection (1)(c) and, if he or she does so, the Agency shall comply with those guidelines.”,

(d) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (3):

“(3A) The Agency shall submit, when required by the Minister for Education to do so, a report on any matters connected with the education welfare functions of the Agency and specified by the Minister for Education.”, 5

and

(e) in subsection (4)—

(i) by the insertion of “or (3A)” after “subsection (3)”, and 10

(ii) by the insertion of “under subsection (3) or (3A)” after “the requirement”.

### **Amendment of section 15 of Principal Act**

7. Section 15 of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (1):

“(1A) The Minister for Education may, where he or she considers it necessary in the public interest to do so for the performance of his or her functions (whether under this Act or otherwise), require the Agency to furnish him or her with such information or documents as he or she may specify that are in the Agency’s procurement, possession or control, and the Agency shall do so within any period that the Minister for Education may specify and, in any event, without delay.”, 15 20

(b) in subsection (2), by the insertion “or the Minister for Education with information or documents referred to in subsection (1A)” after “subsection (1)”,

(c) in subsection (3), by the insertion “or the Minister for Education” after “the Minister”, and 25

(d) in subsection (4)(a), by the insertion “or the Minister for Education” after “the Minister”.

### **Amendment of section 16 of Principal Act**

8. Section 16 of the Principal Act is amended— 30

(a) in subsection (1)—

(i) by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister” where “Minister” first occurs in that subsection, and

(ii) by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education, as the case may be,” after “Minister” where “Minister” secondly occurs in that subsection, 35

(b) in subsection (2), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister”, and

- (c) in subsection (3), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister”.

**Amendment of section 17 of Principal Act**

9. Section 17(1) of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) by the insertion of “and the Minister for Education” after “Minister”, and 5
- (b) by the substitution of “the Minister concerned” for “he or she”.

**Amendment of section 18 of Principal Act**

10. Section 18 of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister” where “Minister” first occurs in that section, and 10
- (b) by the substitution of “the Agency, the Minister or the Minister for Education” for “the Agency or the Minister”.

**Amendment of section 19 of Principal Act**

11. Section 19 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (2): 15

- “(2A) Subject to subsection (2B), one member of the Board appointed under subsection (2) shall be a nominee of the Minister for Education who, in the opinion of that Minister, has experience of, and expertise in, matters connected to the education welfare functions of the Agency.
- (2B) The Minister shall appoint the first person as a member of the Board, in accordance with subsection (2A), no later than 24 September 2023.”. 20

**Amendment of section 20 of Principal Act**

12. Section 20 of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (1), by the insertion of “, subject to subsection (1A),” after “appoint”, and 25
- (b) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (1):
  - “(1A) Where a casual vacancy arises in respect of a member of the Board appointed in accordance with section 19(2A), the person appointed under subsection (1) to fill the casual vacancy shall be a nominee of the Minister for Education who, in the opinion of that Minister, has experience of, and expertise in, matters connected to the education welfare functions of the Agency.”. 30

**Amendment of section 21 of Principal Act**

13. Section 21 of the Principal Act is amended— 35

- (a) by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (3):
  - “(3) The Board of the Agency shall be accountable—
    - (a) to the Minister for the performance of its functions, and
    - (b) to the Minister for Education in respect of the performance by the Agency of its education welfare functions.”, 5
- (b) in subsection (6), by the insertion of “or, in respect of any education welfare functions of the Agency, the Minister for Education,” after “the Minister”,
- (c) in subsection (7)—
  - (i) by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister”, and
  - (ii) by the substitution of “attention of the Minister concerned” for “Minister’s attention”, 10
- and
- (d) in subsection (8), by the insertion of “or, in respect of any education welfare functions of the Agency, the Minister for Education,” after “The Minister”.

**Amendment of section 29 of Principal Act** 15

- 14.** Section 29(2) of the Principal Act is amended—
- (a) in paragraph (d), by the substitution of “time to time,” for “time to time, and”,
  - (b) in paragraph (e), by the substitution of “may require, and” for “may require.”, and
  - (c) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (e):
    - “(f) supply the Minister for Education with such information relating to the performance of his or her education welfare functions and the implementation of that Minister’s policies and priorities with regard to those functions as he or she may require.”. 20

**Amendment of section 40 of Principal Act**

- 15.** Section 40(2) of the Principal Act is amended, in paragraph (b), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister”. 25

**Amendment of section 41 of Principal Act**

- 16.** Section 41 of the Principal Act is amended—
- (a) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (1):
    - “(1A) The Performance Framework shall include such policy guidance, direction and prioritisation parameters for the preparation of the corporate plan of the Agency as the Minister for Education, in respect of his or her education welfare functions, shall provide to the Minister. 30
    - (1B) The Minister for Education shall provide the Minister with policy guidance, direction and prioritisation parameters referred to in 35

subsection (1A) within 4 months before the end of the period to which the current corporate plan relates.”,

and

- (b) in subsection (3), by the substitution of “Minister for Education” for “Minister for Education and Skills”. 5

#### **Amendment of section 42 of Principal Act**

17. Section 42 of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (2)(e), by the insertion of “, the Minister for Education” after “Minister”,

- (b) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (3): 10

“(3A) The Agency shall provide a copy of a corporate plan to the Minister for Education at the same time as it submits the corporate plan to the Minister under subsection (2)(d)(ii).

(3B) Within 30 days of receiving a copy of a corporate plan under subsection (3A), the Minister for Education may, in so far as the corporate plan relates to the education welfare functions of the Agency, issue directions regarding amendments to the proposed plan.”, 15

- (c) in subsection (4)(c), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister”, and

- (d) in subsection (5)— 20

(i) in paragraph (a), by the insertion of “with, in so far as the corporate plan relates to the education welfare functions of the Agency, the consent of the Minister for Education” after “the Minister”, and

(ii) in paragraph (b)(ii), by the insertion of “with, in so far as the corporate plan relates to the education welfare functions of the Agency, the consent of the Minister for Education” after “the Minister”. 25

#### **Amendment of section 44 of Principal Act**

18. Section 44 of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (1)—

(i) by the insertion of “, in respect of the functions of the Agency other than its education welfare functions,” after “shall”, and 30

(ii) by the substitution of “(in this subsection and subsection (1A) referred to as a ‘Performance Statement’)” for “(‘Performance Statement’)”,

- (b) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (1):

“(1A) The Minister for Education shall, in respect of the education welfare functions of the Agency, develop an annual Performance Statement to provide the Agency with specific policy guidance, direction, 35

prioritisation and resource parameters in respect of each year for the preparation of its annual business plan.”,

- (c) in subsection (2), by the substitution of “and the Minister for Education shall provide the Performance Statement developed by the respective Minister concerned” for “shall provide the Performance Statement”, 5
- (d) in subsection (3), by the substitution of “Statements” for “Statement”, and
- (e) in subsection (4), by the substitution of “Neither the Minister nor the Minister for Education shall” for “The Minister shall not”.

#### **Amendment of section 45 of Principal Act**

**19.** Section 45 of the Principal Act is amended— 10

- (a) in subsection (1)—
    - (i) in paragraph (a), by the insertion of “, in respect of its functions other than its education welfare functions,” after “the Agency”, and
    - (ii) by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph (b):
      - “(b) notify the Agency of the determination of net expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) in the context of the Performance Statement developed under section 44(1).” 15
  - (b) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (1):
    - “(1A) Subject to subsection (2), the Minister for Education shall, in respect of a financial year of the Agency— 20
      - (a) determine the maximum amount of net expenditure that may be incurred by the Agency in respect of its education welfare functions for that financial year, and
      - (b) notify the Agency of the determination of net expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) in the context of the Performance Statement developed under section 44(1A).” 25
  - (c) in subsection (2)—
    - (i) by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister” where “Minister” first occurs in that subsection, and
    - (ii) by the substitution of “the Minister concerned may specify in a notification under subsection (1) or (1A), as the case may be” for “the Minister may specify in a notification under subsection (1)”, 30
- and
- (d) in subsection (3)—
    - (i) by the insertion of “and the Minister for Education may amend a determination under subsection (1A)” after “subsection (1)”, and 35
    - (ii) by the substitution of “the Minister concerned varies that amount, that Minister” for “the Minister varies that amount, the Minister”.

### **Amendment of section 46 of Principal Act**

#### **20. Section 46 of the Principal Act is amended—**

- (a) in subsection (1)—
  - (i) by the substitution of “Statements” for “Statement”, and
  - (ii) by the insertion of “and the Minister for Education” after “the Minister”, 5
- (b) in subsection (2)—
  - (i) in paragraph (a)—
    - (I) by the substitution of “Statements” for “Statement”, and
    - (II) by the insertion of “and the Minister for Education” after “Minister”,
  - (ii) in paragraph (e), by the insertion of “or, in respect of the education welfare 10  
functions of the Agency, the Minister for Education” after “Minister”, and
  - (iii) in paragraph (f), by the insertion of “, the Minister for Education” after  
“Minister”,
- (c) in subsection (3)—
  - (i) by the substitution of “Statements” for “Statement”, 15
  - (ii) by the insertion of “and the Minister for Education” after “Minister”, where  
“Minister” first occurs in that subsection, and
  - (iii) by the substitution of “the Minister concerned” for “the Minister” where  
“Minister” secondly occurs in that subsection,
- (d) in subsection (4)— 20
  - (i) by the insertion of “or, in respect of the functions of the Minister for  
Education under this Act, the Minister for Education” after “Minister”, and
  - (ii) the substitution of “in the opinion of the Minister concerned” for “in the  
Minister’s opinion”,
- (e) in subsection (5), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education, as the case 25  
may be,” after “the Minister”, and
- (f) in subsection (8)—
  - (i) in paragraph (a), by the insertion of “and, in respect of the education welfare  
functions of the Agency, the Minister for Education,” after “the Minister”,  
and 30
  - (ii) in paragraph (b), by the insertion of “concerned” after “the Minister”.

### **Amendment of section 47 of Principal Act**

#### **21. Section 47 of the Principal Act is amended—**

- (a) in subsection (1)—

- (i) by the insertion of “or, in respect of the education welfare functions of the Agency, the Minister for Education” after “Minister” where “Minister” first occurs in that subsection, and
- (ii) in paragraph (b), by the insertion of “, the Minister for Education” after “Minister”, 5
- (b) in subsection (2), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister”,
- (c) in subsection (3), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education, in respect of a direction given by the Minister concerned,” after “Minister”,
- (d) in subsection (4), by the substitution of “or the Minister for Education in the direction, inform the Minister concerned” for “in the direction, inform the Minister”, 10
- (e) in subsection (5), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister”, and
- (f) in subsection (6), by the substitution of “Neither the Minister nor the Minister for Education shall” for “The Minister shall not”. 15

**Amendment of section 48 of Principal Act**

**22.** Section 48 of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (1)—
  - (i) by the substitution of “the Performance Statements” for “a Performance Statement”, and 20
  - (ii) by the insertion of “or, in respect of the education welfare functions of the Agency, the Minister for Education,” after “Minister”,
 and
- (b) in subsection (3), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister”. 25

**Amendment of section 51 of Principal Act**

**23.** Section 51 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (8):

“(8A) If required by the Minister for Education, the Agency shall furnish to that Minister the information in respect of the education welfare functions of the Agency as that Minister may require in respect of any balance sheet, account or report of the Agency.”. 30

**Amendment of section 52 of Principal Act**

**24.** Section 52 of the Principal Act is amended—

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- (a) by the insertion of “or, in respect of the education welfare functions of the Agency, the Minister for Education,” after “Minister” where “Minister” first occurs in that section, and
- (b) by the substitution of “the Minister concerned may think” for “the Minister may think”.

5

**Amendment of section 56 of Principal Act**

**25.** Section 56 of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (1), by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister”,

- (b) by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (11): 10

“(11) When requested to do so by the Minister or, where the request relates to the provision of services by a service provider in respect of the education welfare functions of the Agency, the Minister for Education, the Agency shall supply the Minister concerned with any information obtained in response to a request under subsection (8).” 15

- (c) in subsection (13), by the insertion of “, other than in relation to the matters referred to in subsection (13A),” after “may”, and

- (d) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (13):

“(13A) The Minister for Education may make regulations to provide for the requirements in respect of— 20

- (a) the expenditure incurred by the Agency in the provision of services by service providers in respect of the education welfare functions of the Agency, and
- (b) the provision of those services by service providers.

“(13B) Regulations under subsection (13A) may contain such incidental, supplementary and consequential provisions as appear to the Minister for Education to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the regulations. 25

“(13C) Every regulation made by the Minister for Education under subsection (13A) shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas as soon as may be after it is made and, if a resolution annulling the regulation is passed by either such House within the next 21 days on which that House sits after the regulation is laid before it, the regulation shall be annulled accordingly, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.” 30  
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**Amendment of section 59 of Principal Act**

**26.** Section 59(1) of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “the Minister”.



### **Amendment of section 70 of Principal Act**

**27.** Section 70(1) of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) by the insertion of “and the Minister for Education” after “Minister” where “Minister” first occurs in that subsection, and
- (b) by the insertion of “or the Minister for Education” after “Minister” where “Minister” secondly occurs in that subsection. 5

### **Amendment of section 94 of Principal Act**

**28.** Section 94 of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (2), by the insertion of “and, in a case where that report relates to the education welfare functions of the Agency, the Minister for Education” after “the Minister”, and 10
- (b) in subsection (3)—
  - (i) by the insertion of “and, where required under subsection (2), to the Minister for Education” after “Minister” where “Minister” first occurs in that subsection, and 15
  - (ii) by the insertion of “or, where a report has been submitted to the Minister for Education, that Minister,” after “Minister” where “Minister” secondly occurs in that subsection.

### **Amendment of section 95 of Principal Act**

**29.** Section 95(1) of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of “and, in respect of the performance by the Agency of its education welfare functions, with the consent of the Minister for Education,” after “Minister”. 20

### **Short title and commencement**

- 30.** (1) This Act may be cited as the Child and Family Agency (Amendment) Act 2021.
- (2) This Act shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, following consultation with the Minister for Education, may appoint by order or orders either generally or with reference to any particular purpose or provision and different days may be so appointed for different purposes or provisions. 25

An Bille fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí  
agus an Teaghlach (Leasú), 2021

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# BILLE

*(mar a tionscnaíodh)*

*dá ngairtear*

Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le feidhmeanna áirithe de chuid an Aire Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige faoin Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, 2013 a aistriú chuig an Aire Oideachais agus, chun na críche sin, do leasú an Achta fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, 2013; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

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*An Seanadóir Regina Doherty a thíolaic thar ceann  
an Aire Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais,  
Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige,*

*22 Iúil, 2021*

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Child and Family Agency (Amendment) Bill  
2021

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# BILL

*(as initiated)*

*entitled*

An Act to provide for the transfer of certain functions of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth under the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 to the Minister for Education and for that purpose to amend the Child and Family Agency Act 2013; and to provide for related matters.

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*Presented by Senator Regina Doherty on behalf of  
the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability,  
Integration and Youth,*

*22nd July, 2021*

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BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH  
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR  
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