



## Irish Language Services Advisory Committee

### Minutes - Meeting 14 – 2 May 2024

**LOCATION:** Foras na Gaeilge, 63-66 Amiens Street, Dublin 1

**DATE:** Thursday, 2 May 2024

**TIME:** 14:00 – 16:45

**PRESENT:**

| Name                       | Organisation   | Role                          | Means                     |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dr. Aodhán Mac Cormaic     | Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media  | Chairperson                   | On Site                   |
| John Howlin                | Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform         | Member                        | On Site                   |
| Elaine Bird                | Department of Social Protection                                  | Member                        | On Site                   |
| Superintendent David Kelly | An Garda Síochána  | Member                        | Via Remote Connection     |
| Sinéad Coleman             | Public Appointments Service                                      | Member                        | On Site                   |
| Breandán Mac Craith        | Foras na Gaeilge   | Member                        | On Site                   |
| John Prendergast           | Gaeltacht Communities  | Member                        | Via Remote Connection     |
| Mairéad Ní Ghabháin        | Irish Speaking Communities Outside of the Gaeltacht              | Member                        | On Site                   |
| Sadhbh Ó Cinnseala         | Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media | Principal Officer of the Unit | On Site                   |
| Emily Maloney              | Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media | Secretary                     | On Site                   |
| Dr. Kerron Ó Luain         | University of Galway   | Research Fellow               | On Site (item 4 & 5 only) |
| Colm Ó Cinnseala           | University of Galway   | Research Fellow               | On Site (item 4 & 5 only) |

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES:**

- Jim Molloy, representative of the Local Government Management Agency, Eithne Fox, representative of the Health Service Executive and Mags Campbell,

representative of the Department of Education, were unable to attend the meeting.

#### **KEY DECISIONS MADE:**

- The minutes of the meeting on 26 January 2024 and 23 February 2024 respectively were agreed;
- It was agreed that a date would be set for the next meeting of the Committee by email the following week.

#### **FULL AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

##### **1. Welcome from the Chairperson:**

- The meeting began with a particular welcome being given to Superintendent David Kelly, the new representative of An Garda Síochána on the Advisory Committee.

##### **2. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

- The minutes of meetings held on 26 January 2024 and 23 February 2024 respectively were agreed.

##### **3. Matters Arising:**

- The work that has been done on the research for the National Plan for Irish Language Public Services since the last meeting and the drafting of the Plan in general were discussed.

##### **4. Presentation – University of Galway:**

- The University of Galway research team was welcomed. They gave an update on the research and a general discussion on the matter followed.

##### **5. Development of the National Plan:**

- The timelines for the completion of the research and the submission of the National Plan to the Minister were outlined and discussed.

##### **6. Commentary Regarding the Committee in the Media:**

- It was stated that there were various relevant articles in the media since the last meeting, as follows:
  - Articles dated 29 February 2024 on [ireland-live.ie](https://ireland-live.ie) and [RTÉ](https://www.rte.ie) regarding Irish language advertising being available from RTÉ RnaG for the first time.
  - An article dated 4 March 2024 in the [Irish Times](https://www.irishtimes.com) regarding the increased use of the Irish language and the opportunities available with the language.

- Articles dated 4 March 2024 in the [Irish Times](#) and 6 March 2024 in [Echolive.ie](#) in connection with research that shows that Irish language marketing can give businesses a competitive advantage.
- An article dated 26 March 2024 on [Tuairisc.ie](#) regarding the lack of contact between the Department of Further Education and Higher Education and the third level institutions regarding the provision of further Irish language courses.
- Articles dated 3 April 2024 on [Tuairisc.ie](#) and 23 April 2024 on [RTÉ](#) regarding the reinstatement of Gaeltacht allowances to teachers and the Gardaí respectively.
- An article dated 8 April 2024 in the [Irish Times](#) regarding the Government's priorities and the increase in Irish language advertising as a result of the Act.
- Articles dated 8 April 2024 on [Independent.ie](#), 23 April 2024 in the [Waterford News & Star](#), 24 April 2024 on [Waterford Live](#) and 29 April 2024 on [Independent.ie](#) regarding the closure of An Deise post office.
- Articles dated 10 April 2024 on [Tuairisc.ie](#), 11 April 2024 on [RTÉ](#), and 16 April 2024 on [Tuairisc.ie](#) with the new Minister of State for the Gaeltacht and a reference to the importance of the recruitment target of the legislation.
- An article dated 23 April 2024 on [postgrad.ie](#) regarding a new MA course in Irish being developed by Mary Immaculate College and reference to the requirements of the Act.
- An article dated 24 April 2024 on [Tuairisc.ie](#) regarding the gap between the provision of Irish-medium education and the demand for it and the need for the Minister for Education to act on it with specific reference to the recruitment target of the legislation.
- An article dated 25 April 2024 on [Tuairisc.ie](#) regarding the language standards.
- An article dated 29 April 2024 in the [Irish Times](#) regarding the work of the Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community and a reference to the recruitment target of the Act.
- An article dated 29 April 2024 in the [Irish Times](#) regarding the shortage of second level Irish-medium schools.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting:**

- It was agreed that a date for the next meeting of the Committee would be set by email the following week.

## **8. Any Other Business:**

- The first assembly of members of the Alliance for Language Technologies (ALT-EDIC) which took place recently in Paris was mentioned.
- The event that took place the previous day, on 1 May 2024, for the launch of Céad Míle Fáilte was mentioned, an Irish language initiative by Conradh na

Gaeilge which focuses on the benefit that new Irish communities can derive from the Irish language - in terms of the importance of the language, the additional opportunities associated with it and in terms of integration with Irish society.

*Emily Moloney.*

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Secretary

27 May 2024

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Date of Approval