



## Irish Language Services Advisory Committee

### Minutes - Meeting 15 – 27 May 2024

**LOCATION:** Held Virtually through Zoom

**DATE:** Monday, 27 May 2024

**TIME:** 14:00 – 14:30

**PRESENT:**

| Name  | Organisation   | Role                          |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Dr. Aodhán Mac Cormaic                          | Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media  | Chairperson                   |
| John Howlin                                     | Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform        | Member                        |
| Elaine Bird                                     | Department of Social Protection                                  | Member                        |
| Stephen McGrath<br>(on behalf of Mags Campbell) | Department of Education  | Member                        |
| Sinéad Coleman                                  | Public Appointments Service                                      | Member                        |
| Breandán Mac Craith                             | Foras na Gaeilge   | Member                        |
| John Prendergast                                | Gaeltacht Communities  | Member                        |
| Mairéad Ní Ghabháin                             | Irish Speaking Communities Outside of the Gaeltacht              | Member                        |
| Eithne Fox                                      | Health Service Executive   | Member                        |
| Jim Molloy                                      | Local Government Management Agency                               | Member                        |
| Sadhbh Ó Cinnseala                              | Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media | Principal Officer of the Unit |
| Emily Maloney                                   | Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media | Secretary                     |

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES:**

- Superintendent David Kelly, representative of an Garda Síochána, was unable to attend the meeting.

### KEY DECISIONS MADE:

- The minutes of the meeting on 2 May 2024 were agreed;
- It was agreed that the next meetings of the Advisory Committee would take place on Monday, 10 June 2024 and Monday, 17 June 2024.

### FULL AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

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

- The meeting began with an opening statement from the Chairperson of the Committee, Dr. Aodhán Mac Cormaic.

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

- The minutes of the meeting on 2 May 2024 were agreed.

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

- There was a general discussion on the timelines for submission of the National Plan for Irish Language Public Services to the Minister, together with the key findings from the research and the recommendations that will be proposed in this regard.

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

- It was stated that there were various relevant articles and interviews in the media since the last meeting, as follows:
  - An article dated 6 May 2024 in the [Irish Times](#) regarding the provision of health services and the Irish language.
  - Various articles and interviews regarding the annual report of an Coimisinéir Teanga:
    - dated 9 May 2024 on [Adhmhaidin](#) and [Morning Ireland](#);
    - dated 9 May 2024 on [Tuairisc.ie](#) regarding the serious deficiencies in state services in Irish according to the annual report of an Coimisinéir Teanga;
    - dated 9 May 2024 on [Tuairisc.ie](#) in relation to various breaches of the language legislation by Public Bodies;
    - dated 9 May 2024 on [RTÉ](#) regarding the increase in Irish language advertising;
    - dated 9 May 2024 in the [Irish Times](#) regarding the continuous trend of complaints received by an Coimisinéir Teanga every year and that the State will have to tackle the "large gaps" in the public services provided to the Irish-speaking community;
    - dated 10 May 2024 in the Daily Mail (ROI) regarding a shortage of staff in the public sector with good Irish language skills and an increase in complaints about the provision of services through Irish;

- dated 20 May 2024 in the [Irish Times](#) regarding the need for an appropriate level of language competency in the state system so that the Irish-speaking community can trust the services provided in the first official language.
- dated 13 May 2024 in the Irish Independent regarding how the provision of additional public service through the medium of Irish can help it become an everyday language again.
- dated 17 May 2024 on [Tuairisc.ie](#) regarding Raidió na Gaeltachta putting an end to incomprehensible Irish language advertisements.
- dated 24 May 2024 on [Tuairisc.ie](#) regarding concerns that a person without Irish is to be appointed to a senior position on the Education and Training Board of a Gaeltacht county and a specific reference to the National Plan for Irish Language Public Services regarding recruitment recommendations.

**5. Date of Next Meeting:**

- It was agreed that the next meetings of the Advisory Committee would take place on Monday, 10 June 2024 and Monday, 17 June 2024.

**6. Any Other Business:**

- There was a discussion on the report of the Advisory Committee under Section 18E of the Act to be completed by the end of June; and
- The role of the Advisory Committee in the language standards was discussed.

*Emily Moloney.*

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Secretary

10 June 2024

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Date of Approval