

## **20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010 - 2030**

### **Progress Report: 2010 - 2015**

#### **Department of Justice and Equality**

Among the most significant achievements in Irish by the Department of Justice and Equality in the past five years is the publication of official Irish versions of the Rules of Court, translated by or for the Department. The latest such Rules published by the Department include the Rules of the new Court of Appeal, the *Rules of the Superior Courts (Court of Appeal Act 2014) 2014*.

Over the past five years, Irish terms which have been extracted from the two large collections of court rules issued by the Department prior to those 2014 rules – that is, the *District Court Rules District 1997* and the *Circuit Court Rules 2001* – in particular, have been made available in the electronic dictionaries [www.focal.ie](http://www.focal.ie), [www.tearma.ie](http://www.tearma.ie) and [www.gaois.ie](http://www.gaois.ie). The Department participated in the LEX Committee which scrutinized those and other such terms before they were incorporated into those dictionaries.

Over the past five years, the Department has added to the membership and to the work of the Irish Legal Terms Advisory Committee, which is under the aegis of the Department and chaired by a Supreme Court Judge.

Among the Department's initiatives last year was the adoption of *Tailte Éireann* as the single official name for the new body being formed from the merger of the Property Registration Authority, Ordnance Survey Ireland and the Valuation Office.

The Department currently has one post, that of translator, where it is a requirement for the holder to be functionally bilingual in Irish and English. The Department will, as part of its continuing workforce planning framework, identify those areas of the Department where a bilingual fluency would be desirable, or would contribute better to realising business goals. The Department's second Irish Language Scheme, which is currently under negotiation with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, will specify the posts that will have an Irish language competency requirement.

The Department has provided specially tailored internal Irish courses for officials of the Department, and officials also attended courses outside of the Department and achieved qualifications ranging from the Irish European Certificate (*TEG*) to a Master's Degree in the case of one official.

### **An Garda Síochána**

Key achievements in Irish in the past five years by An Garda Síochána are as follows:

- An Garda Síochána introduced a recruitment policy change in 2013. This initiative saw 10% of positions set aside for candidates fluent in the Irish language. These candidates are currently progressing through the training programme and, on completion, will assist with ensuring Gaeltacht communities' language needs are met by An Garda Síochána, thus ensuring future compliance with section 33(2) of An Garda Síochána Act 2005 and the specific objectives of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language*.
- Irish language training is compulsory for all Garda recruits completing training in the Garda College with presentations provided on aspects such as language awareness and language rights.
- Ongoing Irish language training courses are available to An Garda Síochána personnel. These courses are run in conjunction with Irish colleges and have been specifically designed to improve proficiency and confidence in the Irish language. The various courses run for a duration of four days and are based in Gaeltacht areas to provide full immersion in the Irish language and culture.
- Over the past five years, internal language awareness campaigns have been ongoing. Use has been made of the following forums:
  - Intermittent language promotion/information on the notice board of the internal portal system; and
  - Irish language cards issued to members of An Garda Síochána to assist with basic language requirements when dealing with the public.
- An Garda Síochána has prepared a second draft scheme under the Official Languages Act 2003 and is currently awaiting its confirmation. In the interim, An Garda Síochána

continues to implement the provisions outlined in the first scheme. The scheme recognises the right of citizens to conduct their business through Irish with An Garda Síochána and contains a number of commitments to assist in the implementation of this right.

- An Irish Language Liaison Officer has been appointed by An Garda Síochána. This is a full-time role which aims to enhance the level of Irish language services provided by An Garda Síochána.
- An Garda Síochána's Official Languages Implementation Group meet on an ongoing basis. The group is comprised of personnel of various rank and sections and their core function is to progress all matters relating to the Irish language within An Garda Síochána. The group works to ensure ongoing compliance with the Official Languages Act 2003 and other statutory requirements pertaining to the Irish language. A Governance Group also meets bi-annually.