

Themes to be considered

Communication under section 9 of the Act (Letters, emails & mail shots)

Current obligations under the Act:

- To respond to communication in the language in which it was received;
- To issue information in writing or electronically in Irish or bilingually.

1. *In your opinion, are these obligations adequate, are they excessive or do they need to be amended?*

They do need to be Amended, in order to improve Services in Irish

Publications under section 10 of the Act

Current obligations under the Act:

- To publish certain documents simultaneously in Irish and in English (e.g. annual reports, audited accounts, public policy proposals, strategy statements etc.)

2. *In your opinion, are these obligations adequate, are they excessive or do they need to be amended?*

They need to be Amended, so that all documents will be bilingual.

Signage, stationery & recorded oral announcements under Regulations of the Act (S.I. No. 391 of 2008)

Current obligations under the Act:

- To comply with the Regulations in regard to the use of Irish and English on signs, stationery and in recorded oral announcements.

3. *In your opinion, are these obligations adequate, are they excessive or do they need to be amended?*

They should be Amended to make Bilingual Services more widespread.

Language Schemes under the Act

The language schemes form the core of the Language Act. The language schemes set out the system through which public bodies develop their services in Irish over a period of time. It is through the language schemes that the use of Irish is dealt with on websites, leaflets, brochures, forms, through telephone services, through other interpersonal services, through online services etc.

- 4.(a) ***In your opinion, is the system of language schemes satisfactory, excessive or does it need to be amended?***

Needs to be amended to provide language schemes for all state bodies

- 4.(b) ***Would you recommend an alternative system which would be more efficient and more effective?***

Could be improved by getting state organisations to implement their language schemes

Services from public bodies in the Gaeltacht

In order for the State to support the status and use of Irish in the Gaeltacht, it is vital that Gaeltacht communities can carry out their official business with the State through Irish.

- 5.(a) ***Are you satisfied with the services being provided by public bodies in Irish in the Gaeltacht?***

No.

- 5.(b) ***Would you recommend any amendments that would enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of public bodies in this area?***

Employ bilingual staff to allow people the choice

Other provisions of the Act

Other provisions of the Act ratify rights with regard to the use of Irish in the Oireachtas, in the courts and in the State's placenames system.

6. ***In your opinion, are these provisions adequate, are they excessive or do they need to be amended?***

be amended to allow the citizen to choose their preferred language.

Public bodies under the Act

The Act requires public bodies, which are listed under the Act, to provide services through Irish. The full list of public bodies featured under the Act can be found at www.ahg.gov.ie.

The following public bodies are listed under the Act – Government Departments and offices, local authorities, universities, other third-level institutions, vocational education committees, An Garda Síochána, the Courts Service, the Revenue Commissioners, the Health Service Executive, other State agencies, boards & companies.

7. ***In your opinion, is this list of public bodies under the Act appropriate or is an amendment necessary in this area?***

Change Needed to increase number of public bodies under Act.

The Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga

The Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga was established under the Act. The main role of the Office is to monitor the implementation of the Act.

8. ***In your opinion, are the powers and functions of that Office adequate or excessive and do they need to be amended?***

Need to be amended to increase powers of Coimisinéir Teanga.

In general

9. ***Are there other amendments to the Act that you would recommend in order to ensure that the legislation is suitable and appropriate to its function?***

Employ people who can speak Irish + English

10. ***What services through Irish do you personally require from public bodies or what services do you think should be given priority?***

Spoken Irish + forms + websites

11. ***What do you think are the obstacles or difficulties associated with providing the same standard of services in Irish by public bodies?***

mindset of civil servants

12. ***What amendments would you recommend to the Act in order to develop State services through Irish in an efficient and cost-effective manner?***

Need for State bodies to employ bilingual people.
+ Need to enforce the Act more robustly