

patrick browne  
mayo

**Is this response the personal opinion of the respondent or is the response given on behalf of the above organisation?**

Personal

**Are you willing to have this response published on the Department's website [www.ahg.gov.ie](http://www.ahg.gov.ie)?**

Yes

**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?**

adequate

**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?**

adequate

**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?**

signage in general is inadequate throughout the country. Irish language should be dominant/larger type in the Gaeltacht areas.

**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?**

Official-creep' introduces nonsense in both Irish and English.

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

An everyday non-official, non-legalistic communication which would serve common conversations.

**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?**

uneven

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

pro-active outreach

**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?**

poorly performed

**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.ahq.gov.ie](http://www.ahq.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?**

appropriate

**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?**

needs more visibility

**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?**

lacks emphasis on learning and promotion of language use. RTE news and staff in general rarely utter a word in Irish. RnaG has fluent native speakers and vibrant programs but nothing for learners. Even news is rushed and the speed a conversation is usually in the interests of broadcaster, TG4 has 'Comhrá' as a brilliant example of a vital living language and a sophisticated '7 Lá' as a current affairs programme.

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

Promotion of learning opportunities. No adequate computer access to TG4. No adequate archives or downloads. At public bodies no adequate Irish speakers.

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

The removal of the need to know Irish to work in public institutions. No sense of any overall authority/individual who is taking account of the progress of the Irish revival.

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

1.Consumer friendly (intelligible) communications. 2.Identify with Irish heritage with necessary signage; roads, housing estates, tourism etc. 3 RTE/TG\$/RnaG/ to ensure that learning opportunities be considered in planning programs.