

Objective Restore the Irish Language to its rightful place in love and respect.

Method End current failed State policies of bribery, compulsion and pretence that have reduced the language to a subject of derision.

(a) Bribery, the annual bribe for those claiming to be 'Irish speaking families'.

(b) Compulsion which is bad because it turns people off, especially the young, and the fact that it can degenerate into bullying, like when there was an attempt to bully the people of the old town of Dingle to take the non-name of 'An Daingean'.

(c) Pretence, which is the most poisonous, like the pretence that it is necessary to waste tons of paper to print translations of legislation to be read by a person or persons unknown.

Situation We have two languages, a national and an international one. I speak and love the national language and treasure it as a gateway to the land of my father, but am content to live my daily life with the international one. The people have voted with their tongues. They are happy with the language that allows them to listen on TV to international discussions of importance to our economy and security, as well as giving them easy access to a wide variety of countries from the USA to Australia.

For six years I did all my subjects through Irish but not once in that time do I remember even one word of Irish as we went out the gate in the evening. I served in four organisations, the Army, the Civil Service and two national organisations and I never met anyone who wanted to do business with the State through Irish. I do not believe that the people will ever want the Irish language as their daily language. The worst form of pretence is that all that is necessary is one more 'National Plan'. Career gaelgoiri (*hibernior hiberniores ipsos?*) are already putting their heavy artillery in place with meetings of national and international 'experts' to protect their professional territory. They will bombard you with reams of submissions on 'improving' the Official Languages Act by adding to current State policies despite the fact of their dismal failure. I could write a book on these policies but believe that more words are not necessary, the situation is clear to those who wish to see.

Recommendation – Introduce a constitutional amendment to make our two languages equal, hence avoiding cosh and pretence. Scrap the failed policies and let *An Coimisiún Teanga* go before they finally kill the language. Allow the natural love of the language to grow.

These are my personal views. I represent no organisation. You may publish this in any way you wish. I am not 'anti' the language. I see this submission as my duty as an ex-soldier and a citizen. Your duty is what you do with it.

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