GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

IRISH LANGUAGE SERVICES IN THE NEW COUNCILS

Foras na Gaeilge

DECEMBER 2015

Foras na Gaeilge

Contents

1.   Introduction

The historic change in the make-up of councils in NI presents the Irish language community and the new councils with a number of challenges and opportunities. Foras na Gaeilge, as the statutory body charged with promoting the Irish language, welcomes the opportunity that this major change offers. We are happy to address the opportunities afforded by the change in partnership with both elected representatives and officials in each of the new councils, to support and develop their services for the Irish language community and to assist in their fulfilling the provisions of **Part 3 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**.

To this end, Foras na Gaeilge has compiled this guide to support both elected representatives and council officials as they create and configure strategies and policies. The aim of the guide is to support councils to develop the Irish language in their council areas, to support them to deliver services through Irish, and to support the councils to develop their own capacity to provide services in Irish.

The guide seeks to inform and advise council officials on how to support Irish speakers and on how to support the development of the Irish language in their council areas in ways that are practical, supportive, and, most importantly, that will be of practical benefit to those who choose to use Irish and to the development of the language itself. Foras na Gaeilge hopes, through use of this guide and through ongoing liaison with council officials and representatives, that scarce time and resources will be used effectively on actions and measures that are of practical use and benefit to the Irish language and the Irish language community. Additionally, it is hoped, through this guide, that our new Super Councils will be enabled to take a progressive, developmental approach to supporting small, but growing, Irish language communities in their council areas.

Foras na Gaeilge, and others, including Conradh na Gaeilge, the lead organisation with responsibility for this area of the Irish language, will continue to liaise with council officials to discuss how each of the new Super Councils configures its response to the Irish language. In addition, Foras na Gaeilge will continue to provide support to councils by developing partnerships through our **Language Officers' Scheme**. Foras na Gaeilge hopes, through this guide, to inform deliberations in the councils in relation to policy development and to ensure that the Irish language and those who use it, or who are seeking to learn it, will be included in councils' policies and strategies as they are developed.

We are sure that this guide will be of practical assistance to each of the eleven new councils and that they will find it useful and beneficial as they undertake their new, expanded and challenging remit.

Ferdie Mac an Fhailigh

Chief Executive

2. Executive Summary

Considerable development has taken place in recent years in relation to how our public authorities in the north respond to the Irish language. Several councils have made small though significant steps towards making some provision for members of the public who choose to use Irish. Through our **Language Officers' Scheme**, Foras na Gaeilge has played an important role in assisting councils to develop their service provision, and in particular, to support the development of Irish in the councils and in the community.

As the new Super Councils begin to take shape, and to develop and adapt their service provision, Foras na Gaeilge will seek to work closely with council officials and public representatives to support the continued development of Irish in the new councils.

This guide contains examples of good practice that have been developed in councils in the north prior to the creation of the Super Councils, and also on good practice in public authorities in other jurisdictions. It seeks to reflect the provisions outlined in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which the UK Government ratified in 2001, and the various commitments made in respect of the Irish language in the Belfast Agreement, the Saint Andrews Agreement, the NI Act 1998, and in the current Programme for Government 2011-2015.

In many ways, the Irish language in the north is no different from many other minority languages in the European Union and throughout the world. As a minority language, Irish in the north is similar to Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Ulster Scots, Manx and Cornish in a UK context, and the 60 other indigenous or regional languages throughout Europe. There are approximately 6,000 endangered languages throughout the world, all of which need support and protection to ensure their continued existence and to allow them to flourish side by side with the major world languages such as Mandarin, English, Spanish or Arabic.

This guide seeks to provide a context in the new Super Councils for activity to support the Irish language, not as a language associated with one section of the community, one religion or national identity, but simply as a minority language in the wider UK and EU contexts. The guide provides summary information on Irish language communities in the various council areas. The good-practice section will provide examples of what councils have done and can do in three categories:

(i)   Service provision for those who choose to use Irish
(ii) The development of the Councils' capacity to deliver services in Irish;
(iii) Support that councils can provide towards the development of Irish in their areas.

In acknowledging that demand for services will vary from council to council, the guide gives practical examples of good practice across a spectrum of provision that will inform council officials and representatives who seek to take a graduated approach in each of the three categories.

Section 3 contains a brief synopsis of the legal and statutory background associated with the Irish language in the north, encompassing relevant domestic and European legislation and statutory agreements that pertain to language and language use by minorities in a UK and European context. The main focus is, however, on relevant references to the Irish language in the context of Northern Ireland, beginning with the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement (1998) until the most recent Local Government Act (2014). **Section 4** gives a historical background; a brief outline of the most recent developments in the Irish language that have relevance for how local Government responds to this growing sector. **Section 5** gives a brief statistical description of the current state of the Irish language in the eleven council areas and in the north in general, and **Section 6** gives some examples of how councils have responded or can respond to meeting the needs of Irish speakers in their areas. The final sections provide some information on how Foras na Gaeilge hopes to proceed over the next period and some useful contact information.

3. The Legal and Statutory Context for the Irish Language in Northern Ireland

The Irish language is afforded limited legal and statutory support in Northern Ireland through various frameworks and legal instruments, both UK and European based, and these are listed below.

The Good Friday/Belfast Agreement (1998)

As part of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) the British government committed to incorporate the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) into the law of Northern Ireland, and to the establishment of a Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. Placing a statutory obligation on public authorities in Northern Ireland to carry out their work "with due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity" was cited as a priority. All participants recognised the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including, in Northern Ireland, the Irish language. The following excerpt from the text of the GFA outlines the undertakings in respect of the Irish language:

a) *In the context of active consideration being given to the UK signing the Council of Europe Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the British Government will in particular in relation to the Irish language, where appropriate and where people so desire it:*
   a.a.1. *take resolute action to promote the language;*
   a.a.2. *facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private life where there is appropriate demand;*
   a.a.3. *seek to remove, where possible, restrictions which would discourage or work against the maintenance or development of the language;*
   a.a.4. *make provision for liaising with the Irish language community, representing their views to public authorities and investigating complaints;*
   a.a.5. *place a statutory duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education in line with current provision for integrated education;*
   a.a.6. *explore urgently with the relevant British authorities, and in co-operation with the Irish broadcasting authorities, the scope for achieving more widespread availability of Teilifís na Gaeilge in Northern Ireland;*
   a.a.7. *seek more effective ways to encourage and provide financial support for Irish language film and television production in Northern Ireland; and*
   a.a.8. *encourage the parties to secure agreement that this commitment will be sustained by a new Assembly in a way which takes account of the desires and sensitivities of the community.*

The British-Irish Agreement Act (1999)/North-South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The British-Irish Agreement Act (1999) led to the establishment of North South Implementation Bodies and of the North South Ministerial Council. Foras na Gaeilge was

established as the Irish language part of the Language Body, and has responsibility for the promotion of the Irish language in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, with a statutory role in advising both administrations, public bodies and other groups in the private and voluntary sectors.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML).

The ECRML is a European treaty (CETS 148) adopted in 1992 under the auspices of the Council of Europe to protect and promote regional and minority languages in Europe. The Irish language is included in the Charter, which was ratified by the UK Government in 2001. The UK Government included the Irish language as one of three languages (Scottish Gaelic and Welsh being the other two) registered under **Part III** of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The UK Government signed up to specific undertakings for measures in areas including education, administrative authorities, media, culture, economic and social life and transfrontier exchanges.

Article 10 of the ECRML refers specifically to Administrative Authorities which includes Local Councils and sets out those provisions within the ECRML to which councils must adhere. The obligations under the ECRML include the following:

a.a.9.   To ensure that users of Irish may submit oral or written applications in Irish to the administrative authority;

a.a.10. To allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in Irish;

a.a.11. To use Irish in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;

a.a.12. To use or adopt, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s) of traditional and correct forms of place-names in Irish.
To ensure that users of Irish can submit a request for public services in Irish.
To allow the use or adoption of family names in Irish upon request.
In order to comply with the above councils are obliged to provide translation or interpretation as required.

Article 12 details the following obligations:-

• With regard to cultural activities and facilities, especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas as well as literary work and film productions, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the cultural industries, including inter alia the use of new technologies –the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field:

• to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;

- to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;

- to promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language

- concerned as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population;

- to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities.

Article 14, Transfrontier Exchanges encourages the Council to foster contacts between users of Irish on a cross border basis "for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and/or promote co -operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form".

The European Charter is based on a concept of non-discrimination, that is, the majority language group is not discriminated against by the implementation of actions designed to promote and protect the minority indigenous languages.

"The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their
specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages".

The St Andrews Agreement (2006)

The St Andrews Agreement (2006) states that:

> "The Government will introduce an Irish Language Act reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland and work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language."

The Programme for Government 2011-2015

In its **Programme for Government 2011-2015**, the Northern Ireland Executive included a Strategy for the Irish Language as a key building block under **Priority 4** *Building a Strong and Shared Community*. This followed agreements between the British and Irish Governments, which led to the Northern Ireland (NI) Act 1998 being amended in 2006 to include a requirement for the Executive to *"adopt a Strategy setting out how it proposes to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language".*

The Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL) is Foras na Gaeilge's sponsoring Government department in Northern Ireland, and provides 25 per cent of Foras na Gaeilge's annual budget. The Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure also supports individual Irish language projects in the north such as *An Cheathrú Ghaeltachta/The Gaeltacht Quarter* concepts in Belfast and Derry. The Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure is also the Government Department with responsibility for monitoring and promoting the implementation of the European Charter within the Northern Ireland context.

The Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure recently published the Department's *"Strategy to Enhance and Protect the Development of the Irish Language 2015-2035".* The key aims of the Strategy are:

    a.a.13.   *Support quality and sustainable acquisition and learning of the Irish language.*
    a.a.14.   *Enhance and protect the status and visibility of the Irish language.*
    a.a.15.   *Deliver quality and sustainable Irish language networks and communities.*
    a.a.16.   *Promote the Irish language in a way that will contribute towards building a strong and shared community.*

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

The act stipulates that any action proposed to be taken by a Council must be compatible with any *"international obligations"*, which will incorporate actions relating to the Irish language and the Irish speaking community under its auspices. The relevant text is as follows:

    International obligations

    107—*(1) If any Northern Ireland department considers that any action proposed to be taken by a council would be incompatible with any international obligations, that department may direct that the proposed action must not be taken.*
    (2) If any Northern Ireland department considers that any action capable of being taken by a council is required for the purpose of giving effect to any international obligations, that department may direct that the action shall be taken.
    (3) A direction under this section must give the reasons for making the direction and may make provision having retrospective effect.
    (4) In this section "international obligations" has the same meaning as in the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

There are several potential sources of international obligations that may be seen as relevant in this context.

The UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)

The UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960 contains the following provisions:

Article 1
1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term `discrimination' includes any distinction, exclusion, limitation or preference which, being based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic condition or birth, has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing equality of treatment in education and in particular:

(a) Of depriving any person or group of persons of access to education of any type or at any level;

(b) Of limiting any person or group of persons to education of an inferior standard;

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child contains the following provision:

Article 29. 1   State Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to:

(c)   The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for the civilizations different from his or her own.

Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities:

The Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities contains the following provision:

Article 10

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

Article 11

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in

the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.
In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including, where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.

European Convention on Human Rights

The European Convention on Human Rights contains the following provision:

ARTICLE 1 General prohibition of discrimination

1. The enjoyment of any right set forth by law shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

2. No one shall be discriminated against by any public authority on any ground such as those mentioned in paragraph 1.

Northern Ireland Act (1998)

The Northern Ireland Act (1998) states:

The statutory duties under Section 75 require public authorities to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and also to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations.

In so far as it relates to dealing with the Irish-speaking community, the above text has been misinterpreted in the past; recent legal clarification has proven the Irish language not to be a point of adverse impact.

The "point of adverse impact" issue whereby public authorities do not proceed with special Irish language initiatives or measures due to concerns that those initiatives may bring the public authority into contravention with Section 75 or other equality conventions, has been clarified in a number of reports, two of which are cited below. The EU Charter Committee of Experts (COMEX) advised that special measures which are compatible with the Charter are NOT to be considered discriminatory (i.e. an 'adverse impact' in Section 75 terms).

The Committee of Experts emphasises that... the adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not to be considered an act of discrimination against the users of more widely used languages.

UK Third Monitoring report, paragraph 123

The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for National Minorities has also made similar observations:

Such statements are not in line with the principles of the Framework Convention, and in particular with the provisions of Article 10. It also reiterates that, in line with Article 4.2 and Article 4.3 of the Framework Convention, implementation of minority rights protected under the Framework Convention are not be considered as discriminating against other persons...

Council of Europe (2011) Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for National Minorities (Third Opinion on the UK) ACFC/OP/III(2011)006 (adopted 30 June 2011), paragraph 147.

It is regrettable that measures to promote the visibility and use of this language have often been opposed with the justification that they constitute a discrimination against other groups of the population.

Council of Europe (2011) Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for National Minorities (Third Opinion on the UK) ACFC/OP/III(2011)006 (adopted 30 June 2011), paragraph 21.

The Advisory Committee has been informed that, in some instances, the need for keeping good relations has been used as justification for not implementing provisions in favour of persons belonging to minorities, such as the erection of bilingual signs....

Council of Europe (2011) Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for National Minorities (Third Opinion on the UK) ACFC/OP/III(2011)006 (adopted 30 June 2011), paragraph 126.

The Advisory Committee is concerned that this approach is not in line with the spirit of the Framework Convention and, in particular, the provisions of Article 11, the aim of which is to value the use of minority languages, including through the setting up of bilingual signposting, with a view to promoting more tolerance and intercultural dialogue in society.

Council of Europe (2011) Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for National Minorities (Third Opinion on the UK) ACFC/OP/III(2011)006 (adopted 30 June 2011), paragraph 158

4. Historical Background

The Role of Irish in Local Government

Much of what is done to support the Irish language at the level of Local Government, and to provide services to the Irish-speaking community in the Council areas, will be based upon the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, upon legislation and Governmental arrangements described in this document in the section entitled *The legal and statutory context for the Irish language in Northern Ireland*. Since 2001, when the British Government became a signatory to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, local Councils in the North are required to seek to strengthen the Irish language both within the Council itself and in the Council area.

According to **Article 7** of the Charter, parties (in this case, local Councils) must base their policies and practices upon the following principles and aims:

1.

 (c)   *the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them*
 (d)   *the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life;*

The EU Charter Committee of Experts (COMEX) investigate the compliance by Councils with their obligations under the European Charter.

Certain local Councils have developed a range of Irish language services, encompassing the following areas: frontline customer service, translation and interpreting services; programmes for the teaching of Irish to Council staff and training programmes on the subject of linguistic awareness; programmes of events and cultural activities. Some Councils have developed Irish language policies which usually incorporate the following areas:

- Corporate identity;
- Correspondence;
- Communication by telephone;
- Publications and information technology;
- Contact with Irish language media;
- Presentations / public events;
- Events;
- Signs and visibility;
- Funding

The Irish Language Officers' Scheme

Foras na Gaeilge offers an **Irish Language Officers' Scheme** which helps local Councils to do the following:

- to provide civic leadership in the promotion of Irish;
- to provide services and information through Irish;
- to promote Irish, in a visible way, as a true means of communication;
- to increase awareness of Irish and of the Irish-speaking community;
- to cultivate linguistic and cultural diversity in the community;
- to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to fulfil obligations under the European Charter, the Good Friday Agreement, the Strategy for Regional Languages (DCAL) or under a forthcoming Irish Language Bill/Act;
- to advise in regard to possible service improvements where there is sensitivity regarding other languages in the organisation's culture;
- to support and encourage the Irish-speaking community to use Irish in their dealings with Councils and to increase community confidence in demanding such services;
- to help Councils enhance staff ability to provide services through Irish to the Irish-speaking community;
- to ensure that Irish speakers have a point of contact within the Council in order to facilitate demand of services through Irish;
- to help co-ordinate Irish language activity in the area;
- to raise the status of Irish within the Council as an organisation and throughout the Council area;
- to normalise and mainstream the language;
- to ensure that the language is defended, promoted and celebrated in every aspect of community life;
- to act as an example of good practice for other organisations in order to encourage them to use Irish in their own work;
- to encourage co-operation with the Irish language sector.

Foras na Gaeilge established the **Irish Language Officers' Scheme** in Northern Ireland in 2006, based on a similar scheme operated by Bord na Gaeilge in the South since the mid-1990s. Under the scheme, joint funding for a three-year period is provided towards the salary of an Irish Language Officer in association with the local Councils, conditional on a Council Action Plan being prepared by them in collaboration with Foras na Gaeilge. The following Councils succeeded in achieving joint funding under the scheme in the period 2007 – 2010:

- Magherafelt District Council & Limavady Borough Council
- Dungannon and South Tyrone Council and Cookstown Council
- Derry City Council.

A second scheme was announced for the period 2010 – 2013 and another for the period 2013 – 2016. The same five Councils operated under the scheme before the redrawing of Council boundaries as a result of the Review of Public Administration.

A wide range of services has been made available to the public and to Council staff since the scheme began in 2007. Below are some examples of initiatives taken under the scheme:

- Irish Language Training Programme for Council workers;
- Cultural Events and Activities Programme;
- Advice and support for Council staff and for members of the community seeking services through Irish;
- Internal translation services.

In addition, by providing comprehensive information and services through Irish, the scheme gives recognition to the language throughout the Councils – an area of work that would not be addressed without the appointment of Irish Language Development Officers in local Councils.

Irish Medium Education

Irish-medium immersion education is a growing sector in the North. In 2014, there were 45 preschools, 36 primary schools, and five postprimary schools providing Irish-medium education to over 5,000 children. While there is a small but growing number of children whose first language is Irish, the vast majority of children attending Irish-medium education come from homes where Irish is not spoken. Since the teaching medium is the target language they gain a much higher level of proficiency in the language of immersion than occurs when the language is simply taught as a school subject. These schools enable pupils to develop their language skills through everyday school activities, thus becoming fully bilingual. Early total immersion education is recognized by the Department of Education as the most effective model of immersion education in terms of acquisition of the Irish language (Johnson and Swain, 1997). As well as this, Irish-medium also provides education in their own language to children from Irish speaking families. The aims of Irish-medium education are the same as those in any education sector as regards delivery of the curriculum, transmission of culture and socialisation. Immersion education provides every learner with the highest possible level in linguistic, cognitive, emotional and social development. The Irish-medium education sector aims to provide each learner with an excellent education, with top quality teaching enabling the acquisition of Irish at every level.

Irish-medium youth services are now available to young people across the North. As of March 2014, 23 youth clubs were in operation, providing services to 30 Irish-medium primary schools, 5 secondary schools with Irish-medium provision and 15 English-medium secondary schools in which Irish is taught as a second language. Around 1,000 young people are regularly attending Irish-medium youth clubs in their area, facilitated by over 100 youth workers, mostly working on a voluntary basis.

1. Belfast City

Name	Town	No. of pupils (2014/15)
Naíscoil Mhic Reachtain	Belfast	27
Naíscoil an Lonnáin	Belfast	13
Naíscoil an tSléibhe Dhuibh	Belfast	29
Luathbhlianta an tSléibhe Dhuibh	Belfast	24
Naí-Ionad Ard Eoin	Belfast	15
Naíscoil Bheann Mhadagáin	Belfast	30
Naíscoil Bhreandáin	Belfast	52
Tús Maith	Belfast	12
Gael Spraoi	Belfast	26
Naíscoil na Móna	Belfast	47
Naíonra an Droichid	Belfast	24
Naíscoil an Droichid	Belfast	29
Naíscoil na Fuiseoige	Belfast	62
Bunscoil an tSléibhe Dhuibh	Belfast	159
Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin	Belfast	126
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste	Belfast	263
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	Belfast	84
Gaelscoil an Lonnáin	Belfast	54
Gaelscoil na bhFál	Belfast	161
Gaelscoil na Móna	Belfast	102
Scoil an Droichid	Belfast	128
Scoil na Fuiseoige	Belfast	129
Coláiste Feirste	Belfast	612
Club Óige an Chollain	Belfast	No figures available
Club Óige an Droichid	Belfast	No figures available
Club Óige Mhachaire Bótháin	Belfast	No figures available
Club Óige Mhic Reachtain	Belfast	No figures available
Cumann Óige Chluanaí	Belfast	No figures available
Cumann Óige Bhóthar na bhFál	Belfast	No figures available
Cumann Óige Ghlór an Ghleanna	Belfast	No figures available

2. North Down and Ards District   0

3. Antrim and Newtownabbey District

Name	Town	No. of pupils (2014/15)
Naíscoil Ghleann Darach	Crumlin	18
Naíscoil Éanna	Glengormley	26
Naíscoil na Tamhnaí Móire	Tannaghmore	22
Gaelscoil Ghleann Darach	Crumlin	77
Gaelscoil Éanna	Glengormley	158
Club Óige Chroí Éanna	Glengormley	No figures available

4. Lisburn City and Castlereagh District   0

5. Newry City, Mourne and Down District

Name	Town	No. of pupils (2014/15)
Naíscoil an Iúir	Newry	16
Naíscoil an Chreagáin	Silverbridge	16
Naíscoil na mBeann	Kilkeel	16
Naíscoil an Chéide	Keady	10
Naíscoil Shliabh gCuilinn	Jonesborough	24
Naíscoil Dhún Pádraig	Downpatrick	30
Naíscoil Uachtar Tíre	Castlewellan	61
Naíscoil Chill Locha	Killough	16
Bunscoil an Iúir	Newry	87
Bunscoil Phádraig Naofa	Crossmaglen	122
Gaelscoil na mBeann	Kilkeel	46
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	Castlewellan	86
Scoil Mhuire & Phádraig	Downpatrick	100
Ardscoil Mhaolmhaodhóg	Castlewellan	28
Club Óige Chaisleán Uidhilín	Castlewellan	No figures available
Club Óige an Dúin	Downpatrick	No figures available
Club Óige an Iúir	Newry	No figures available
Ógras Chrois Mhic Lionnáin	Crossmaglen	No figures available
St Patrick's Youth Club	Mayobridge	No figures available
Cumann Óige Bhoirche Íochtair	Castlewellan	No figures available
Ógras Oirialla	Crossmaglen	No figures available

6. Mid and East Antrim District   0

7. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon District

Name	Town	No. of pupils (2014/15)
Naíscoil Chois Locha	Lurgan	23
Naíscoil na Banna	Portadown	16
Naíscoil na mBráithre Críostaí	Armagh	26
Bunscoil na mBráithre Críostaí	Armagh	146
Bunscoil Eoin Baiste	Portadown	54
Bunscoil Naomh Proinsias	Lurgan	156
Coláiste Chaitríona	Armagh	147
Club na nÓg	Lurgan	No figures available
Club Spraoi Ghráinseach Mhór	Armagh	No figures available

8. Causeway Coast and Glens District

Name	Town	No. of pupils (2014/15)
Naíscoil Ghleann an Iolair	Glenullan	15
Naíscoil Léim an Mhadaidh	Limavady	17
Naíscoil Neachtain	Dungiven	25
Naíscoil an Chaistil	Ballycastle	25
Gaelscoil an Chaistil	Ballycastle	83
Gaelscoil Léim an Mhadaidh	Limavady	68
Gaelscoil Neachtain	Dungiven	86
Coláiste Dhoire	Dungiven	15
Campa Chormaic Chontae Dhoire	Dungiven	No figures available
Cumann Iománaíochta Chaoimhín Uí Loinsigh	Dungiven	No figures available
Ógras Bhaile an Chaistil	Ballycastle	No figures available
Glór Dhún Geimhin	Dungiven	No figures available
Óg-Ógras Dhún Geimhin	Dungiven	No figures available

9. Mid-Ulster District

Name	Town	No. of pupils (2014/15)
Naíscoil Charn Tóchair	Maghera	15
Naíscoil Mhachaire Rátha	Maghera	31
Naíscoil na Speiríní	Draperstown	19
Naí-aonad an tSeanchaí	Magherafelt	26
Naíscoil Eoghain	Cookstown	26
Naíscoil Uí Néill	Coalisland	30
Naíscoil Aodha Rua	Dungannon	24
Bunscoil Naomh Bríd	Maghera	116
Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí	Magherafelt	99
Gaelscoil na Speiríní	Draperstown	49
Gaelscoil Eoghain	Cookstown	54
Gaelscoil Uí Néill	Coalisland	160
Gaelscoil Aodha Rua	Dungannon	88
St. Joseph's Grammar School	Donaghmore	79
Club Óige Charn Tóchair	Maghera	No figures available
Campa Chormaic Chontae Thír Eoghain	Dungannon	No figures available
Campa Chormaic Chontae Dhoire	Draperstown	No figures available
Club Óige Ghleann na Banna	Gleann na Banna	No figures available
Seal Spraoi Dhún Geanainn	Dungannon	No figures available
Seal Spraoi na Coirre Críochaí	Cookstown	No figures available
Seal Spraoi Oileán an Ghuail	Coalisland	No figures available
Cairde Uí Neill	Coalisland	No figures available
Club Óige an Luraigh	Maghera	No figures available
Cairdeas Eoghain	Cookstown	No figures available

10. Derry City and Strabane District

Name	Town	No. of pupils (2014/15)
Naíscoil Dhoire	Derry	26
Naíscoil Cholmcille	Derry	12
Naíscoil Éadain Mhóir	Derry	26
Naíscoil an tSrátha Báin	Strabane	52
Naíscoil na Deirge	Castlederg	11
Naíscoil na Daróige	Derry	69
Naíscoil Mhaol Íosa	Derry	17
Bunscoil Cholmcille	Derry	84
Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir	Derry	112
Gaelscoil na Daróige	Derry	69
Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh	Strabane	133
Club Óige Setanta	Derry	No figures available
Óg-Ógras na dTrí Abhainn	Strabane	No figures available
Ógras na dTrí Abhainn	Strabane	No figures available
An Cumann Gaelach	Strabane	No figures available

11. Fermanagh and Omagh District

Name	Town	No. of pupils (2014/15)
Naíscoil an Traonaigh	Lisnaskea	9
Naíscoil Cholmcille	Carrickmore	15
Naíscoil na gCrann	Omagh	26
Bunscoil an Traonaigh	Lisnaskea	45
Gaelscoil na gCrann	Omagh	120
Bunscoil Naomh Colmcille	Carrickmore	61
Club Óige na Carraige Móire	Carrickmore	No figures available
Club Óige an Chaisleáin Ghlais	Greencastle	No figures available
Óige na hÓmaí	Omagh	No figures available

* Figures based on Department of Education for the School Year 2014 / 2015

5.   The Current Position of Irish in the North

According to the 2011 Census, 10.65% of the population of the North (almost 185,000 people) report some level of ability in Irish. www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/key_report_2011.pdf.

There is further important information in Northern Ireland's Continuous Household Survey 2013/14 regarding public attitudes towards Irish and levels of knowledge and use.

49% of the community above the age of 16 years said that the language was an important element of the culture of Northern Ireland.

15% of the community claimed some knowledge of Irish (an increase from the 13% reported in 2011/12 in response to the same question).

Four out of every one hundred people (4%) use Irish at home, in conversation with family or with others in the house.

The same percentage (4%) use Irish occasionally on a social basis, while talking to friends or acquaintances. www.dcalni.gov.uk/irish_language_chs_201314_bulletin.pdf.

The new Council areas

Census 2011	All usual residents: Aged 3+ years	Knowledge of Irish: Have some ability in Irish: Aged 3+ years	Knowledge of Irish: Have some ability in Irish: Aged 3+ years (%)
Northern Ireland	**1,735,711**	**184,898**	**10.65 %**
Antrim and Newtownabbey	132,620	8,644	6.52 %
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	190,526	19,595	10.28 %
Belfast	320,416	43,106	13.45 %
Causeway Coast and Glens	135,500	11,926	8.8 %
Derry and Strabane	141,550	19,704	13.92 %
Fermanagh and Omagh	108,402	15,759	14.54 %
Lisburn and Castlereagh	129,301	6,644	5.14 %
Mid and East Antrim	130,405	5,467	4.19 %
Mid Ulster	132,025	22,984	17.41 %
Newry, Mourne and Down	163,917	26,309	16.05 %
North Down and Ards	151,049	4,760	3.15 %

6. Good practice

Irish has been included as a United Kingdom language by the British Government in the European Charter. Irish is one of the official languages of the European Union and is a minority language along with 60 other minority or regional languages in Europe. Foras na Gaeilge has an important role in advising statutory bodies, including local Councils, regarding international good practice in relation to minority languages. While it is difficult to avoid political views in a Northern Ireland context, Foras na Gaeilge approaches the Irish language and the Irish-speaking community as a minority language and minority language community in the North on the same basis as others throughout the European Union.

Foras na Gaeilge's proposals and advice to the new Super Councils will be based upon European and international good practice used in many states throughout Europe rather than any of the political circumstances associated with the Irish language in the North.

Recommendations

When the new Super Councils begin to make decisions about the services they will provide and how they will provide them, they will initiate a number of consultations. It will be important for them to consult the various Irish language communities in their areas to gather information on which services would be beneficial to them and which services they would be likely to use. There are substantial differences in these communities from one Council district to another; some are long-established and have a high number of Irish-speaking adults including parents and service-users. There are other communities who have a greater number of primary-school children than adults.

It is good practice that such diversity in demand is reflected in Community Plans, in Local Area Plans and in the policies of the various Councils.

As is clear from the table on **page 22,** certain Councils have a high proportion of Irish speakers and the number of people in those Councils reporting even the lowest levels of knowledge of Irish is substantial.

Foras na Gaeilge will advise all the Councils to adopt, earnestly and willingly, the spirit of the legislation referred to in **Section 3**. The Irish-speaking community is an understanding one, well aware of the challenges involved in bilingualism and the promotion of a minority language. It is, after all, a community which addresses those same challenges on a daily basis, in Irish-medium schools, nurseries and youth clubs. Foras na Gaeilge will advise the Councils to consider the demands of the Irish-speaking community in their strategies and plans, as is the case with other linguistic minorities throughout Europe. Foras an Gaeilge will recommend that they develop a specific strategy for Irish based on an assessment of the needs and demands of the Irish-speaking communities in their areas.

When the new Councils are making decisions on how to attend to the needs and demands of Irish speakers, there will inevitably be discussions on costs and staffing. Cost and staffing implications can be minimised by first carrying out a language skills audit on Council staff. By analysing the entire staff, their qualifications and ability in the language, the Council can ascertain what staff resources already exist and what is lacking.

Foras na Gaeilge will remind Councils of what was agreed by the United Nations in **Article 2** *of The Convention against Discrimination in Education:*

> *When permitted in a state, the following situations shall not be deemed to constitute discrimination, within the meaning of Article 1 of this Convention ....*
>
> *(b) The establishment or maintenance, for religious or linguistic reasons, of separate educational systems or institutions offering an education which is in keeping with the wishes of the pupil's parents or legal guardians, if participation in such systems or attendance at such institutions is optional and if the education provided conforms to such standards as may be laid down or approved by the competent authorities, in particular for education of the same level.*

Similarly, according to **Part 2 of Article 7** of the Charter, special measures taken on behalf of minority languages are not to be considered as discriminating actions against users of more widely used languages (such as English).

> *2. The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.*

Part ii – Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2(1)
Article 7 – Objectives and principles

When the Irish language skills audit is completed, it is vital to consider which gaps remain and provide opportunities for Council staff to learn Irish. Foras na Gaeilge provides grant in aid to *Gaelchultúr* to provide training to Local Government workers North and South.

There are details in the following section of services provided at Local Government level. These examples recognise that Councils operate in an environment in which there is great pressure on resources and also the particular political circumstances within which Councils in the North operate. Therefore, it must be acknowledged that these may not be examples of the very best practice for minority languages in Europe or internationally. They will, however, be of assistance to the new Councils in quickly addressing the needs of the Irish-speaking communities in their areas and in developing a specific strategy for the Irish language based on their consultations with those communities.

Examples have been provided here on the various ways in which Irish can be catered for in the main areas that concern Councils. The examples in the various areas are graded from first-step measures to approaches which more fully serve the needs of Irish-speaking communities. It should be understood that any approach outlined in the examples below would have to be improved upon to meet the standards of best international practice.

Branding

1. The Council emblem and title appear in Irish and English on Council buildings, on its website and on Council stationery.
2. The Council emblem and title appear in Irish and English as mentioned under No. 1 and in other contexts in which it will be seen by users of Irish (leisure centres, vehicles, other resources) in areas where there are communities of Irish-speakers.
3. The Council emblem and title appear in Irish everywhere they appear in English.
4. The Foras na Gaeilge website (www.gaeilge.ie/treoir) gives comprehensive guidance on international good practice in bilingual signage for minority languages. It includes the following:
   a. The same typeface is used for both languages;
   b. Irish is positioned first (above or to the left). Because all Irish speakers can read English, the Irish text would be superfluous if placed second;
   c. Irish has equality with English so as not to suggest to the Irish-speaking public that they are less important than English-speakers;
   d. The colour of the Irish text makes it as legible and as visible as the English text.

Documents in Irish

1. The documents most used by the public are availble bilingually in electronic format.
2. The documents most used by the public are available bilingually in both hard copy and electronic format.
3. Customers are asked what is their language of choice: Irish or English.
4. Corporate documents, forms (internal and external) and other Council documents are available bilingually, in hard copy or electronic format.

Council Staff with Irish

1. A short-term implementation plan exists to help move towards providing services to the Irish-speaking public.
2. Job applications from Irish speakers are welcomed.
3. Specific staff members are nominated to provide Irish-language support to all Council departments who deal with the Irish-speaking community.
4. Irish is desirable for a certain percentage of new employees.
5. Irish is required for a certain percentage of new employees.
6. There are staff members with competency in Irish in each department.
7. An Irish Language Officer is employed to promote Irish within the Council and in the Council area.
8. The Communications Officer has competency in Irish.

Other Ways to Provide Services in Irish

1. People are invited to send emails in Irish, which are replied to in that language.
2. An Irish-speaking staff member is available to answer calls made in Irish.
3. Each department has a dedicated telephone line for Irish speakers and a staff member capable of answering calls in Irish. The option to use Irish can be given either automatically or by the receptionist.
4. Calls made in Irish are answered in Irish by having a nominated staff member available when the call is made.

Correspondence

1. A standard acknowledgement in Irish is sent thanking correspondents and informing them how long it will take to answer their correspondence in Irish.
2. Correspondence in Irish is welcomed and is replied to by a staff member with that responsibility.
3. Correspondence in Irish is welcomed and responded to in Irish and a dedicated email address exists, e.g.: gaeilge@derrycity.gov.uk.
4. Correspondence in Irish is welcomed and responded to in Irish and staff members are available to that end in each department.

Services for the Irish Language Media

1. A spokesperson with Irish is provided on request.
2. Irish press statements are made available to the Irish language media where the subject relates to Irish or to the Irish-speaking community.
3. Irish language version or bilingual version of all press statements are made available to the Irish language media.
4. A spokesperson with Irish is available to the media and all press statements are issued bilingually.

Services for the Irish language Social Media.

1. Bilingual material on Facebook and Twitter.
2. Material about Irish and related matters appears in Irish on Facebook and Twitter.
3. Material in Irish appears on Facebook and Twitter regularly and often.
4. The Council works closely with the Marketing and Communications Department in order to process requests from Irish language media, they are in regular contact with the Irish language broadcast, print and online media. There is a contacts database for Irish language media.

Website

1. Some bilingual information on the Council website – headings and information relating to Irish language events and activities.
2. Some bilingual information on the website, on the home page and on other pages with material about Irish and related matters.
3. A choice of languages, English/Irish, on the home page and two parallel Irish and English languages sites.
4. An Irish-language microsite featuring an archive of forms, applications and publications as well as information on events and initiatives.

Training in Irish – It is recommended that the European Certificate in Irish (TEG) system be followed.

1. The issue is discussed with the Human Resources Department.
2. An audit is held to establish ability in Irish among Council staff.
3. Employees are given information on classes.
4. DCAL is invited to give a presentation on *Líofa* and employees are encouraged to register with *Líofa*.

5. A training certificate is provided for any Irish language course completed.
6. *Gaelchultúr* is engaged to provide specialist training to employees with specific Irish language duties.
7. *Gaelchultúr* is engaged to provide specialist training to general employees.
8. Irish language classes at every level are available to Council staff and to Council members on a weekly basis within working hours, at lunchtime or after work.
9. Support and funding are made available to the staff for training in linguistic diversity, linguistic awareness and for Irish-language courses outside the Council.
10. Gaeltacht scholarships are available to staff.

Irish-Language Awareness for Staff

1. Training in Language Awareness is included in the induction programme for new staff.
2. Should such a course not be available within the Council, employees are encouraged to attend an awareness course run by another Council.
3. An Irish-language booklet and information leaflets are prepared for the Council in collaboration with Irish-language organisations such as Foras na Gaeilge or Conradh na Gaeilge.
4. An Irish Language Awareness Scheme for staff is initiated which describes the Council's obligations under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and training under this scheme is made available to every employee on a regular basis.

Internal Signage in Irish (within the Council)

1. Bilingual signage is available on request and if there is a demand from the public, according to the Foras na Gaeilge guidance (www.gaeilge.ie/treoir) and in keeping with international good practice.
2. All signage is bilingual according to the Foras na Gaeilge guidance and in keeping with international good practice.

Irish Language Signage outside the Council

Under the current legislation (Art 11(4), Local Government (NI) Order 1995) Councils have the power to erect a dual street name sign in Irish. In order to exercise that power they are obliged to have regard to the opinions expressed by residents. Councils should note that the power to erect a dual language sign is a discretionary one. As a result, the council policy and the documents which it issues to residents should reflect the fact that the council has a discretion to grant an Irish street name application even if the survey does not meet the particular council threshold where there are exceptional circumstances.
1. Bilingual signage is available where there is demand.
2. Bilingual signage where there is an IM nursery school, an IM school or centre. Directions to these are also in Irish.
3. The Council's policy mentions signage in Irish in a way that incorporates streetnames, road nameplates, etc.

Street and Placename Service

It is recommended that the placename heritage is used to promote awareness of Irish and that, in co-operation with the Environmental Services Directorate, translations of street and placenames are provided. It is recommended that a bilingual database of streetnames is created and made available online.

1. The use of addresses in Irish is welcomed.
2. The use of addresses in Irish is welcomed and advice given on placenames.
3. In collaboration with the appropriate bodies, the public is given advice on local street names and placenames.
4. The public are encouraged to use the Irish form of their address.

Translation and Intrepreting Service (at Council meetings)

1. Translation and interpreting services are available if a member of Council staff is available to provide this.
2. Translation and interpreting services are available by demand.
3. Requests from the Irish-speaking public to use Irish are welcome if notice is given, so that a translation/simultaneous interpreting service can be made available and translation and interpreting services are provided to the public.
4. Councillors wishing to use Irish are welcome if notice is given so that a translation/ simultaneous interpreting service can be made available.
5. Translation and interpreting services are provided from a panel of translators.
6. The Council employs a translator/interpretor or an Irish-speaking employee is available to provide translation and interpreting.
7. An interpreting system and translation software is made available in the Council for use by nominated officers.

Approaches towards the Development of Irish in the Council Area

1. The Irish language is recognised in the funding criteria for Council   support schemes.
2. Some publications are made available, where there is demand.
3. All publications are made available bilingually.
4. A quarterly newsletter is published with a section (in English) about Irish language events, information about Irish-medium schools in the area, etc.
5. A quarterly newsletter is published with a section in Irish to publicise details of events and other relevant information.
6. An Irish language newsletter is published regularly to publicise the Council's Irish language services, information about Irish language events (*Seachtain na Gaeilge*, etc.), and Irish-medium education in the Council area.

Irish Language Awareness for the Public

1. Irish language events are supported and the holding of such events in Council buildings is welcome.
2. Officers from *Líofa* are invted to give a presentation about the initiative.
3. Information is provided about Irish-language classes in the Council area (in collaboration with Gael Linn).
4. Links with the Irish-speaking community in the Council area are developed through a database of contact people.

5. A series of Irish-language events and events about Irish is organised on a yearly basis.
6. On online language-awareness scheme for Irish is developed for the public with a link to Connect 3 http://www.connect-3.co.uk for children.
7. An Irish-Language Community Forum is co-ordinated to discuss and assess the development of Irish in the area and to develop a language plan.
8. The establishment of a community radio station is supported with support from Raidió Fáilte.
9. Gaeltacht or summer-college scholarships are provided for school pupils and families.

Services for the Public

1. Irish documents are available for registration of births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths etc. according to demand.
2. Bilingual documents are available for registration of births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths etc. according to demand.
3. Computer systems are compatible with receiving information from the public in Irish (accents; preset selection lists for language choice; inflected forms of surnames; placenames and case-sensitive computer settings).
4. Staff with competency in Irish for registration of births, marriages, civic partnerships, deaths etc.).
5. Staff with competency in Irish are available to provide these services to the public on an appointment basis.
6. All customers are given the option to use the Irish language for registration services.

Support for Irish-medium Education and other Schools

1. The public is provided with information on Irish-medium schools and are directed to Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta(the Irish-medium education council).
2. Workshops, schemes and information packs are provided in Irish to Irish-medium schools as is done with English-medium schools, about Council services and events, e.g. Recycling, Biodiversity, Equality and Good Relations, Christmas Scheme (children in Irish-medium schools are welcome to write to Santa Claus in Irish) and Seachtain na Gaeilge (contact and co-operation with Irish-medium and English-medium schools for its duration).
3. All information, contacts and schemes made available to English-medium schools and their pupils are made available to Irish-medium schools and their pupils.
4. Scholarships for Gaeltacht courses are provided for pupils in English- and in Irish-medium schools.

An Irish-language Policy

1. Develop a courtesy code for the Irish language.
2. Develop a policy that meets the requirements of the European Charter and the needs of the Irish-speaking community.
3. Develop, in consultation with the Irish-speaking community, a comprehensive policy that covers all aspects of the Irish language both in the Council and among the community in the Council area.
4. Develop, in consultation with the Irish-speaking community, a strategic plan that will cover all aspects of Irish in the Council area – service provison, the development of

Irish in the community and in the Council itself and enabling the Council to provide Irish-language services.

7. The Next Steps

Foras na Gaeilge has been in contact with senior management in all the new Councils informing them of Foras na Gaeilge's statutory role in providing administrators with advice on the Irish language and its promotion.

Foras na Gaeilge will continue these contacts and provide practical help to all Councils who seek this. We recognise that the new Councils face a very busy period as they seek to develop their services, plans, policies and strategies. We also recognise that each Council will want to consult with its communities to ensure that the plans, policies and strategies they develop are consistent with the wishes of the various communities in the Council area.

Foras na Gaeilge will seek to help Councils in that work. Foras na Gaeilge provides funding to *Conradh na Gaeilge* to raise awareness of the Irish language in the community and to *Glór na nGael* to help communities develop the Irish language in their own areas. We also provide grant funding to *Gaelchultúr* to provide Irish-language courses to councils throughout the country, North and South, and to *Gael Linn* to provide classes and learning materials for adults. Foras na Gaeilge expects these bodies to work with the new Councils to support them in their efforts to meet the needs of Irish-speaking communities in the various Council areas.

We will amend the *Irish Language Officers Scheme*, and other Foras na Gaeilge schemes, to meet the needs of the new Councils, in the hope that these schemes can be used to support the Irish language in the Council areas.

The position of the Irish language and accordingly the position of Irish Language users is a rapidly changing one. The Strategy to Enhance and Protect the Development of the Irish Language was published in January 2015 and when adopted will have widespread implications for public services, including those provided by the Councils. Councils are already obliged to comply with their obligations under the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages which have been set out above.

Ultimately, our hope is that the Irish language will be included in the Community Plans drawn up by each of the Councils, that each Council will have a strong Irish-language policy and a strategy for the development of Irish both inside the Council in the community, according to the needs of the public.

8. Useful Contact Information & Websites

Foras na Gaeilge, www.gaeilge.ie, eolas@forasnagaeilge.ie, 028 90890970

Conradh na Gaeilge, www.cnag.ie, eolas@cnag.ie +353 (0) 1 475 7401

Glór na nGael, www.glornangael.ie, eolas@glornangael.ie +353 (0) 46 943 0974

Gael Linn, www.gael-linn.ie, info@gael-linn.net, 028 37522162

Gaelchultúr, www.gaelchultur.com, eolas@gaelchultur.com, +353 (01) 484 5220

Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, www.comhairle.org, eolas@comhairle.org, 028 903321475

Websites

www.foclóir.ie

www.teanglann.ie

www.téarma.ie – an on-line terminology dictionary

www.gaeilge.ie/an-ghaeilge/na-corais-chreidiunaithe/ – A list of accredited translators.

www.gaeilge.ie/treoir – a guide to best practice in relation to bilingualism

www.gaeilge.ie/ordu – resources for office workers

www.freagra.ie / freagra@ling.ie – a helpline for users of Irish. Freagra can be accessed by phone or by sending a text or email message.

www.nascanna.com – a list of resources, tools and computer programmes.

www.placenamesni.org and **www.logainm.ie** – official placename databases with Irish versions.

www.sloinne.ie – a database of surnames with authoritative Irish spellings.

www.gaois.ie – a search-engine that allows users to search legislative texts. Searches may be carried out for either single terms or whole phrases in English or Irish. The engine will generate a list of all items in the corpus which contain the term or phrase.

www.teg.ie – Irish language proficiency testing and qualifications.