



Uimhir 18 de 2026

Number 18 of 2026

An tAcht um Údarás na Gaeltachta (Leasú), 2026

Údarás na Gaeltachta (Amendment) Act 2026



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ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA (AMENDMENT) ACT 2026

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AN tACHT UM ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA (LEASÚ), 2026

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ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA (AMENDMENT) ACT 2026

An Act to amend the Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979; to make certain changes to the membership of, and provisions applying to, the board of Údarás na Gaeltachta; to extend the functions of Údarás na Gaeltachta; to provide for regional committees of Údarás na Gaeltachta; to provide for the election of certain members to the board of Údarás na Gaeltachta and for that purpose to amend the Electoral Act 1992, the Electoral Act 1997 and the Litter Pollution Act 1997; to amend the Official Languages Act 2003; to amend the Gaeltacht Act 2012; to amend the Data Protection Act 2018; to amend the Local Government Act 2001; and to provide for related matters.

[1st July, 2026]

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

PART 1

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Údarás na Gaeltachta (Amendment) Act 2026.
- (2) This Act, other than *section 13*, shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht may by order or orders appoint either generally or with reference to any particular purpose or provision and different days may be so appointed for different purposes or different provisions.

Definition

2. In this Act, “Principal Act” means the Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979.



AN tACHT UM ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA (LEASÚ), 2026

Acht do leasú an Achta um Údarás na Gaeltachta, 1979; do dhéanamh athruithe áirithe ar chomhaltas bhord Údarás na Gaeltachta agus ar fhorálacha a bhaineann le bord Údarás na Gaeltachta; do leathnú fheidhmeanna Údarás na Gaeltachta; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le coistí réigiúnacha d'Údarás na Gaeltachta; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le comhaltaí áirithe a thoghadh chun bord Údarás na Gaeltachta agus, chun na críche sin, do leasú an Achta Toghcháin, 1992, an Achta Toghcháin, 1997 agus an Achta um Thruailliú ó Bhruscar, 1997; do leasú Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003; do leasú Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012; do leasú an Achta um Chosaint Sonraí, 2018; do leasú an Achta Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

[1 *Iúil*, 2026]

Achtaítear ag an Oireachtas mar a leanas:

CUID 1

RÉAMHRÁITEACH AGUS GINEARÁLTA

Gearrtheideal agus tosach feidhme

1. (1) Féadfar an tAcht um Údarás na Gaeltachta (Leasú), 2026 a ghairm den Acht seo.
- (2) Tiocfaidh an tAcht seo, seachas *alt 13*, i ngníomh cibé lá nó laethanta a cheapfaidh an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta le hordú nó le horduithe i gcoitinne nó faoi threoir aon chríoch nó foráil áirithe agus féadfar laethanta éagsúla a cheapadh amhlaidh chun críoch éagsúil nó le haghaidh forálacha éagsúla.

Míniú

2. San Acht seo, ciallaíonn “Príomh-Acht” an tAcht um Údarás na Gaeltachta, 1979.

PART 2

AMENDMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACT

Amendment of section 2 of Principal Act

3. Section 2(1) of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) by the deletion of the definition of “county council”,
- (b) by the substitution of the following for the definition of “local authority”:
“ ‘local authority’ has the same meaning as it has in the Act of 2001;”,
and
- (c) by the insertion of the following definitions:

“ ‘Act of 2001’ means the Local Government Act 2001;
‘appointed member’ means a member referred to in section 6(2)(a);
‘district’ shall be construed in accordance with section 26D;
‘elected member’ means a member referred to in section 6(2)(b);
‘election’ means an election of members to an tÚdarás under Part IVA;
‘prescribed’ means prescribed by regulations made by the Minister;
‘reserve list’ means the list maintained pursuant to section 6(2F);”.

Regulations and orders

4. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 5:

- “5A.** (1) The Minister may by regulations provide for any matter referred to in this Act as prescribed or to be prescribed.
- (2) Regulations under this Act or an order under section 26B(1) or 26D(2), may—
- (a) make different provision for different circumstances or cases, classes or types, and
 - (b) contain such incidental, supplementary and consequential provisions as appear to the Minister to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the regulations or order.

CUID 2

LEASÚ AR AN BPRÍOMH-ACHT

Leasú ar alt 2 den Phríomh-Acht**3.** Leasaítear alt 2(1) den Phríomh-Acht—

- (a) tríd an míniú ar “comhairle contae” a scriosadh,
- (b) tríd an méid seo a leanas a chur in ionad an mhínithe ar “údarás áitiúil”:
 “tá le ‘údarás áitiúil’ an bhrí chéanna atá leis in Acht 2001;”,
 agus
- (c) trí na mínithe seo a leanas a chur isteach:
 “ciallaíonn ‘Acht 2001’ an tAcht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001;
 ciallaíonn ‘comhalta ceaptha’ comhalta dá dtagraítear in alt 6(2)(a);
 forléireofar ‘ceantar’ de réir alt 26D;
 ciallaíonn ‘comhalta tofa’ comhalta dá dtagraítear in alt 6(2)(b);
 ciallaíonn ‘toghchán’ toghchán chun comhaltaí a thoghadh chun an
 Údarais faoi Chuid IVA;
 ciallaíonn ‘forordaithe’ forordaithe le rialacháin arna ndéanamh ag an
 Aire;
 ciallaíonn ‘liosta cúltaca’ an liosta a chothabhálfar de bhun alt 6(2F);”.

Rialacháin agus orduithe**4.** Leasaítear an Príomh-Acht tríd an alt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh alt 5:

- “5A.** (1) Féadfaidh an tAire, le rialacháin, foráil a dhéanamh maidir le haon ní dá dtagraítear san Acht seo mar ní atá forordaithe nó le forordú.
- (2) Maidir le rialacháin faoin Acht seo nó maidir le hordú faoi alt 26B(1) nó 26D(2)—
- (a) féadfar foráil éagsúil a dhéanamh leo nó leis maidir le himthosca nó cásanna, aicmí nó cineálacha éagsúla, agus
 - (b) féadfaidh cibé forálacha teagmhasacha, forlíontacha agus iarmhartacha a bheith iontu nó ann is dealraitheach don Aire a bheith riachtanach nó fóirsteanach chun críocha na rialachán nó an ordaithe.

- (3) Subject to subsection (4), every regulation and order made by the Minister under this Act shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas as soon as may be after it is made and, if a resolution annulling the regulation or order is passed by either such House within the next 21 days on which that House sits after the regulation or order is laid before it, the regulation or order shall be annulled accordingly, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.
- (4) An order under section 26D(3) shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas and the order shall not be made until a resolution approving the draft has been passed by each such House.”.

Amendment of section 6 of Principal Act

5. Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (2):

“(2) An tÚdarás shall consist of the following members—

- (a) 6 members who shall be appointed by the Minister, and
- (b) 10 members who shall be elected in accordance with Part IVA.”,

- (b) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (2A):

“(2AA) The Minister shall appoint a chairperson from among the members of an tÚdarás.”,

and

- (c) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (2B):

“(2C) A person shall not be eligible for appointment or election unless he or she is competent in the Irish language and able to conduct the business of an tÚdarás through the medium of the Irish language.

(2D) For the purposes of subsection (2C), the Minister may, having regard to the system of standards known as the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, prescribe the level of competence in the Irish language required by a person referred to in that subsection.

(2E) A person shall not be eligible for election unless he or she resides in a district and an elected member shall reside in the district in respect of which he or she has been elected.

(2F) The Minister shall maintain a reserve list of candidates for the purposes of filling casual vacancies and temporary absences in accordance with paragraphs 5(1A)(b) and 5A(4)(b) of the First Schedule.”.

- (3) Faoi réir fho-alt (4), déanfar gach rialachán agus ordú a dhéanfaidh an tAire faoin Acht seo a leagan faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas a luaithe is féidir tar éis a dhéanta agus, má dhéanann ceachtar Teach acu sin, laistigh den 21 lá a shuífidh an Teach sin tar éis an rialachán nó an t-ordú a leagan faoina bhráid, rún a rith ag neamhniú an rialacháin nó an ordaithe, beidh an rialachán nó an t-ordú ar neamhniú dá réir sin, ach sin gan dochar do bhailíocht aon ní a rinneadh roimhe sin faoin rialachán nó faoin ordú.
- (4) Déanfar ordú faoi alt 26D(3) a leagan faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas agus ní dhéanfar an t-ordú go dtí go mbeidh rún ag ceadú an dréachta rite ag gach Teach acu sin.”.

Leasú ar alt 6 den Phríomh-Acht

5. Leasaítear alt 6 den Phríomh-Acht—

- (a) tríd an bhfo-alt seo a leanas a chur in ionad fho-alt (2):
 - “(2) Is iad na comhaltaí seo a leanas a bheidh ar an Údarás—
 - (a) 6 chomhalta a gceapfaidh an tAire iad, agus
 - (b) 10 gcomhalta a cheapfar de réir Chuid IVA.”,
- (b) tríd an bhfo-alt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt (2A):
 - “(2AA) Ceapfaidh an tAire cathaoirleach as measc chomhaltaí an Údaráis.”,

agus
- (c) trí na fo-ailt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt (2B):
 - “(2C) Ní bheidh duine incheaptha ná intofa mura rud é go mbeidh sé nó sí inniúil i nGaeilge agus ábalta gnó an Údaráis a sheoladh trí mheán na Gaeilge.
 - (2D) Chun críocha fho-alt (2C), féadfaidh an tAire, ag féachaint don chóras caighdeán ar a dtugtar an Creat Comhchoiteann Tagartha Eorpach le haghaidh Teangacha, an leibhéal inniúlachta i nGaeilge is gá a bheith ag duine dá dtagraítear san fho-alt sin a fhorordú.
 - (2E) Ní bheidh duine intofa mura rud é gur i gceantar atá cónaí air nó uirthi agus is sa cheantar arb ina leith a toghadh é nó í a bheidh cónaí ar chomhalta tofa.
 - (2F) Cothabhálfad an tAire liosta cúltaca d’iarrthóirí chun corrpholúntais agus asláithreachtaí sealadacha a líonadh de réir mhíreanna 5(1A)(b) agus 5A(4)(b) den Chéad Sceideal.”.

Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act

6. Section 8 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (7):

“(7A) An tÚdarás may sell or otherwise dispose of land to an approved housing body (within the meaning of the Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Act 2019) or to a housing authority (within the meaning of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992) for the provision of housing in the Gaeltacht.”.

Amendment of section 10A of Principal Act

7. Section 10A of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (5):

“(6) An tÚdarás shall establish a committee (in this section referred to as a ‘regional committee’) for each of the following areas—

- (a) the districts specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 26D(1),
- (b) the districts specified in paragraphs (c) and (g) of section 26D(1), and
- (c) the districts specified in paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of section 26D(1).

(7) The regional committee in the area referred to in—

- (a) subsection (6)(a), shall have 5 members,
- (b) subsection (6)(b), shall have 7 members, and
- (c) subsection (6)(c), shall have 6 members.

(8) The members of the regional committees shall be appointed by an tÚdarás and shall consist of—

- (a) the elected members for the area in respect of which the regional committee is established, and
- (b) persons being members of such of the local authorities, as determined by an tÚdarás, and nominated for that purpose by the local authority in the area in respect of which the regional committee is established.

(9) The elected member for the district specified in section 26D(1)(a) shall also be a member of the regional committee in the area referred to in subsection (6)(b).

(10) A person referred to in subsection (8)(b) shall be a member of the local authority for a local electoral area (within the meaning of the Act of 2001) that is in the area concerned.

(11) Where a member of a local authority referred to in subsection (8)(b) is not available, the local authority shall nominate a person who—

- (a) it considers suitable for appointment to the regional committee,

Leasú ar alt 8 den Phríomh-Acht

6. Leasaítear alt 8 den Phríomh-Acht tríd an bhfo-alt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt (7):

“(7A) Féadfaidh an tÚdarás talamh a dhíol le comhlacht tithíochta ceadaithe (de réir bhrí Acht na dTithe (Comhlachtaí Tithíochta Ceadaithe a Rialáil), 2019) nó le húdarás tithíochta (de réir bhrí Acht na dTithe (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha), 1992), nó a dhiúscairt ar shlí eile chuig an gcéanna, chun tithíocht a sholáthar sa Ghaeltacht.”.

Leasú ar alt 10A den Phríomh-Acht

7. Leasaítear alt 10A den Phríomh-Acht trí na fo-ailt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt (5):

“(6) Bunóidh an tÚdarás coiste (dá ngairtear ‘coiste réigiúnach’ san alt seo) do gach ceann de na limistéir seo a leanas—

- (a) na ceantair a shonraítear i míreanna (a) agus (b) d’alt 26D(1),
- (b) na ceantair a shonraítear i míreanna (c) agus (g) d’alt 26D(1), agus
- (c) na ceantair a shonraítear i míreanna (d), (e) agus (f) d’alt 26D(1).

(7) Maidir leis an gcoiste réigiúnach sa limistéar dá dtagraítear—

- (a) i bhfo-alt (6)(a), beidh 5 chomhalta air,
- (b) i bhfo-alt (6)(b), beidh 7 gcomhalta air, agus
- (c) i bhfo-alt (6)(c), beidh 6 chomhalta air.

(8) Is é an tÚdarás a cheapfaidh comhaltaí na gcoistí réigiúnacha agus beidh ar na coistí réigiúnacha—

- (a) na comhaltaí tofa don limistéar arb ina leith a bhunófar an coiste réigiúnach, agus
- (b) daoine is comhaltaí de cibé údaráis áitiúla a chinnfidh an tÚdarás agus a ainmneoidh an t-údarás áitiúil sa limistéar arb ina leith a bhunófar an coiste réigiúnach chun na críche sin.

(9) Maidir leis an gcomhalta tofa don cheantar a shonraítear in alt 26D(1) (a), beidh sé nó sí ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta freisin den choiste réigiúnach sa limistéar dá dtagraítear i bhfo-alt (6)(b).

(10) Beidh duine dá dtagraítear i bhfo-alt (8)(b) ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta den údarás áitiúil do thoghlimistéar áitiúil (de réir bhrí Acht 2001) atá sa limistéar lena mbaineann.

(11) I gcás comhalta d’údarás áitiúil dá dtagraítear i bhfo-alt (8)(b) gan bheith ar fáil, ainmneoidh an t-údarás áitiúil duine—

- (a) a mheasann sé a bheith oiriúnach lena cheapadh nó lena ceapadh chun an choiste réigiúnaigh,

- (b) is competent in the Irish language, and
- (c) resides in the area concerned.
- (12) A regional committee shall appoint a chairperson from among the members of the committee.
- (13) The members of a regional committee shall be competent to conduct the business of the committee in the Irish language.
- (14) The quorum for a meeting of a regional committee shall be two-thirds of the number of members of the committee at the time of the meeting.
- (15) An tÚdarás may determine the terms of reference and regulate the procedure of a regional committee.
- (16) A regional committee shall consult with language planning groups, in the area in respect of which the regional committee is established, for the purpose of advising and assisting an tÚdarás in the performance of its functions in that area.
- (17) A regional committee may act notwithstanding one or more than one vacancy among its members.
- (18) (a) A member of a regional committee shall hold office for such term and subject to such other terms and conditions (other than terms and conditions relating to allowances for expenses) as an tÚdarás may determine.
- (b) A member of a regional committee shall be paid by an tÚdarás, out of moneys at its disposal, such allowances for expenses as the Minister may from time to time, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, determine.
- (19) If a member of a regional committee who is—
 - (a) an elected member, or
 - (b) a member of a local authority,
 ceases to be such, he or she shall also cease to be a member of the regional committee.
- (20) Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the First Schedule shall apply to a member of a regional committee as they apply to a member of an tÚdarás, subject to any necessary modifications.”.

- (b) atá inniúil i nGaeilge, agus
 - (c) a bhfuil cónaí air nó uirthi sa limistéar lena mbaineann.
- (12) Ceapfaidh coiste réigiúnach cathaoirleach as measc chomhaltaí an choiste.
- (13) Beidh comhaltaí coiste réigiúnaigh inniúil ar ghnó an choiste a sheoladh i nGaeilge.
- (14) Is é is córam do chruinniú de choiste réigiúnach dhá thrian de líon comhaltaí an choiste tráth an chruinnithe.
- (15) Féadfaidh an tÚdarás téarmaí tagartha coiste réigiúnaigh a chinneadh agus nós imeachta coiste réigiúnaigh a rialáil.
- (16) Rachaidh coiste réigiúnach i gcomhairle le grúpaí pleanála teanga, sa limistéar arb ina leith a bhunófar an coiste réigiúnach, chun comhairle a thabhairt don Údarás agus chun cuidiú leis an Údarás i gcomhlíonadh a fheidhmeanna sa limistéar sin.
- (17) Féadfaidh coiste réigiúnach gníomhú d’ainneoin folúntas nó folúntais i measc a chomhaltaí.
- (18) (a) Beidh comhalta de choiste réigiúnach i seilbh oifige ar feadh cibé tréimhse agus faoi réir cibé téarmaí agus coinníollacha eile (seachas téarmaí agus coinníollacha a bhaineann le liúntais i leith caiteachas) a chinnfidh an tÚdarás.
- (b) Déanfaidh an tÚdarás, as airgead a bheidh faoina réir aige, cibé liúntais i leith caiteachas a chinnfidh an tAire ó am go ham, le toiliú an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadta ar an bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta, agus Athchóirithe, a íoc le comhalta de choiste réigiúnach.
- (19) Más rud é, maidir le comhalta de choiste réigiúnach—
- (a) is comhalta tofa, nó
 - (b) is comhalta d’údarás áitiúil,
- go scoirfidh sé nó sí de bheith ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta den sórt sin, scoirfidh sé nó sí de bheith ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta den choiste réigiúnach freisin.
- (20) Beidh feidhm ag míreanna 6 agus 7 den Chéad Sceideal maidir le comhalta de choiste réigiúnach mar atá feidhm acu maidir le comhalta den Údarás, faoi réir aon mhodhnuithe is gá.”.

Insertion of new Part IVA in Principal Act

8. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following Part after Part IV:

“Part IVA

ELECTION OF CERTAIN MEMBERS TO AN tÚDARÁS

Interpretation

26A. In this Part—

‘elector’ means a person referred to in section 26C;

‘register of local government electors’ shall be construed in accordance with section 13(1) of the Electoral Act 1992;

‘Regulations of 1995’ means the Local Elections Regulations 1995 (S.I. No. 297 of 1995).

An tÚdarás election

- 26B.** (1) Where the number of candidates for election in a district exceeds the number of members to be elected to an tÚdarás for that district, the Minister shall, after consultation with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, by order fix a day for the holding of a poll for an election in the district concerned.
- (2) If an election is contested, the poll shall be taken according to the system of proportional representation, each elector having one transferable vote.
- (3) In fixing the day under subsection (1), the Minister may have regard to the day fixed for the holding of a poll at a local election under section 26 of the Act of 2001.
- (4) An election shall be managed by the local authority in each district and shall be held in accordance with regulations under section 26G.
- (5) The costs incurred by a local authority in the holding of an election shall be borne by the Minister out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

Right to vote

26C. For the purposes of an election, every person whose name is on the register of local government electors in respect of the district in which an election is to be held shall be entitled to vote.

District

- 26D.** (1) For the purposes of an election, each of the following shall be a district:
- (a) the Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas situated in the county of Mayo specified in—
- (i) the Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 5) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 392 of 2018), and

Cuid IVA nua a chur isteach sa Phríomh-Acht

8. Leasaítear an Príomh-Acht tríd an gCuid seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh Chuid IV:

“Cuid IVA**COMHALTAÍ ÁIRITHE A THOGHADH CHUN AN ÚDARÁIS****Léiriú**

26A. Sa Chuid seo—

ciallaíonn ‘toghthóir’ duine dá dtagraítear in alt 26C;

forléireofar ‘clár na dtoghthóirí rialtais áitiúil’ de réir alt 13(1) den Acht Toghcháin, 1992;

ciallaíonn ‘Rialacháin 1995’ na Rialacháin um Thoghcháin Áitiúla, 1995 (I.R. Uimh. 297 de 1995).

Toghchán chun an Údaráis

- 26B.** (1) I gcás gur mó an líon iarrthóirí do thoghchán i gceantar ná an líon comhaltaí a bheidh le toghadh chun an Údaráis don cheantar sin, déanfaidh an tAire, tar éis dul i gcomhairle leis an Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht, lá a shocrú, le hordú, chun vótaíocht a dhéanamh le haghaidh toghcháin sa cheantar lena mbaineann.
- (2) Má théitear in iomaidh i dtoghchán, is de réir chóras na hionadaíochta cionúire a thógfar an vótaíocht, agus vóta inaistrithe amháin ag gach toghthóir.
- (3) Nuair a bheidh an tAire ag socrú an lae faoi fho-alt (1), féadfaidh sé nó sí aird a thabhairt ar an lá a socraíodh chun vótaíocht a dhéanamh i dtoghchán áitiúil faoi alt 26 d’Acht 2001.
- (4) Is é an t-údarás áitiúil i ngach ceantar a bhainisteoidh toghchán agus is de réir rialacháin faoi alt 26G a dhéanfar toghchán.
- (5) Déanfaidh an tAire na costais a thabhoídh údarás áitiúil ag déanamh toghcháin a íoc as airgead a sholáthróidh an tOireachtas.

Ceart vótála

26C. Chun críoch toghcháin, beidh gach duine a mbeidh a ainm nó a hainm ar chlár na dtoghthóirí rialtais áitiúil i leith an cheantair ina mbeidh toghchán le déanamh i dteideal vótáil.

Ceantar

26D. (1) Chun críoch toghcháin, is ceantar gach ceann díobh seo a leanas:

- (a) na Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta atá i gcontae Mhaigh Eo agus a shonraítear iontu seo a leanas—
- (i) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 5), 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 392 de 2018), agus

- (ii) the Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No.2) Order 2022 (S.I. No. 432 of 2022);
- (b) the Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas situated in the county of Donegal specified in—
 - (i) the Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) Order 2017 (S.I. No. 543 of 2017),
 - (ii) the Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) Order 2017 (S.I. No. 545 of 2017),
 - (iii) the Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 6) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 485 of 2018),
 - (iv) the Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) Order 2019 (S.I. No. 334 of 2019),
 - (v) the Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 3) Order 2019 (S.I. No. 698 of 2019),
 - (vi) the Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 2) Order 2021 (S.I. No. 708 of 2021),
 - (vii) the Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 3) Order 2021 (S.I. No. 709 of 2021), and
 - (viii) the Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 5) Order 2022 (S.I. No. 482 of 2022);
- (c) the Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas situated in the counties of Galway and Mayo specified in—
 - (i) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) Order 2017 (S.I. No. 544 of 2017),
 - (ii) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 4) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 347 of 2018),
 - (iii) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 7) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 569 of 2018),
 - (iv) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 9) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 601 of 2018),

- (ii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 2), 2022 (I.R. Uimh. 432 de 2022);
- (b) na Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta atá i gcontae Dhún na nGall agus a shonraítear iontu seo a leanas—
 - (i) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú), 2017 (I.R. Uimh. 543 de 2017),
 - (ii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú), 2017 (I.R. Uimh. 545 de 2017),
 - (iii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 6), 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 485 de 2018),
 - (iv) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú), 2019 (I.R. Uimh. 334 de 2019),
 - (v) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 3), 2019 (I.R. Uimh. 698 de 2019),
 - (vi) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 2), 2021 (I.R. Uimh. 708 de 2021),
 - (vii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 3), 2021 (I.R. Uimh. 709 de 2021), agus
 - (viii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 5), 2022 (I.R. Uimh. 482 de 2022);
- (c) na Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta atá i gcontae na Gaillimhe agus i gcontae Mhaigh Eo agus a shonraítear iontu seo a leanas—
 - (i) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú), 2017 (I.R. Uimh. 544 de 2017),
 - (ii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 4), 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 347 de 2018),
 - (iii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 7), 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 569 de 2018),
 - (iv) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 9), 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 601 de 2018),

- (v) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 2) Order 2019 (S.I. No. 496 of 2019),
 - (vi) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) Order 2021 (S.I. No. 707 of 2021),
 - (vii) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 4) Order 2021 (S.I. No. 710 of 2021),
 - (viii) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) Order 2022 (S.I. No. 250 of 2022),
 - (ix) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 3) Order 2022 (S.I. No. 433 of 2022), and
 - (x) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 6) Order 2022 (S.I. No. 636 of 2022);
- (d) the Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas situated in the county of Kerry specified in—
- (i) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 2) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 258 of 2018), and
 - (ii) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 3) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 332 of 2018);
- (e) the Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas situated in the county of Cork specified in—
- (i) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 253 of 2018), and
 - (ii) Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 4) Order 2022 (S.I. No. 481 of 2022);
- (f) the Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas situated in the county of Waterford specified in Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (Na Déise) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 97 of 2018);
- (g) the Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas situated in the county of Meath specified in Gaeltacht Act 2012 (Designation of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas) (No. 8) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 600 of 2018).

- (v) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 2), 2019 (I.R. Uimh. 496 de 2019),
- (vi) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú), 2021 (I.R. Uimh. 707 de 2021),
- (vii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 4), 2021 (I.R. Uimh. 710 de 2021),
- (viii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú), 2022 (I.R. Uimh. 250 de 2022),
- (ix) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 3), 2022 (I.R. Uimh. 433 de 2022), agus
- (x) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 6), 2022 (I.R. Uimh. 636 de 2022);
- (d) na Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta atá i gcontae Chiarraí mar a shonraítear iontu seo a leanas—
 - (i) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 2), 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 258 de 2018), agus
 - (ii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 3), 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 332 de 2018);
- (e) na Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta atá i gcontae Chorcaí mar a shonraítear iontu seo a leanas—
 - (i) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú), 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 253 de 2018), agus
 - (ii) an tOrdú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 4), 2022 (I.R. Uimh. 481 de 2022);
- (f) na Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta atá i gcontae Phort Láirge mar a shonraítear san Ordú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Na Déise), 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 97 de 2018);
- (g) na Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta atá i gcontae na Mí mar a shonraítear san Ordú um Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012 (Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a Ainmniú) (Uimh. 8), 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 600 de 2018).

- (2) The Minister shall make an order under subsection (3) where—
 - (a) an order specified in subsection (1) and made under section 7(2) of the Act of 2012 is—
 - (i) amended, or
 - (ii) revoked,or
 - (b) an order is made under section 7(2) of the Act of 2012, after the date of the passing of the *Údarás na Gaeltachta (Amendment) Act 2026*, designating an area to be a Gaeltacht Language Planning Area.
- (3) The Minister, for the purpose of ensuring that the Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas specified in subsection (1) are accurate in each district, and having regard to the order made under section 7(2) of the Act of 2012 after the date of the passing of the *Údarás na Gaeltachta (Amendment) Act 2026*, shall by order revise a district to provide for the amendment, removal or addition of a Gaeltacht Language Planning Area, as the case may be.
- (4) In this section ‘Act of 2012’ means the Gaeltacht Act 2012.

Elected members

- 26E.** (1) An tÚdarás shall consist of the following number of elected members—
- (a) one person from the district specified in section 26D(1)(a),
 - (b) 2 persons from the district specified in section 26D(1)(b),
 - (c) 3 persons from the district specified in section 26D(1)(c),
 - (d) one person from the district specified in section 26D(1)(d),
 - (e) one person from the district specified in section 26D(1)(e),
 - (f) one person from the district specified in section 26D(1)(f), and
 - (g) one person from the district specified in section 26D(1)(g).
- (2) If there are insufficient elected members in a district, the Minister shall appoint one or more persons to an tÚdarás in accordance with paragraph 4A of the First Schedule.

(2) Déanfaidh an tAire ordú faoi fho-alt (3) más rud é—

(a) go ndéanfar ordú a shonraítear i bhfo-alt (1) agus a dhéanfar faoi alt 7(2) d'Acht 2012—

(i) a leasú, nó

(ii) a chúlghairm,

nó

(b) go ndéanfar ordú faoi alt 7(2) d'Acht 2012, tar éis dháta rite *an Achta um Údarás na Gaeltachta (Leasú), 2026*, lena n-ainmnítear limistéar chun bheith ina Limistéar Pleanála Teanga Gaeltachta.

(3) Déanfaidh an tAire, chun a chinntiú go bhfuil na Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta a shonraítear i bhfo-alt (1) cruinn i ngach ceantar, agus ag féachaint don ordú arna dhéanamh faoi alt 7(2) d'Acht 2012 tar éis dháta rite *an Achta um Údarás na Gaeltachta (Leasú), 2026*, ceantar a athmhéas, le hordú, chun socrú a dhéanamh maidir le Limistéar Pleanála Teanga Gaeltachta a leasú, a bhaint nó a chur leis, de réir mar a bheidh.

(4) San alt seo, ciallaíonn 'Acht 2012' Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012.

Comhaltaí tofa

26E. (1) Beidh an líon seo a leanas de chomhaltaí tofa ar an Údarás—

(a) duine amháin as an gceantar a shonraítear in alt 26D(1)(a),

(b) 2 dhuine as an gceantar a shonraítear in alt 26D(1)(b),

(c) 3 dhuine as an gceantar a shonraítear in alt 26D(1)(c),

(d) duine amháin as an gceantar a shonraítear in alt 26D(1)(d),

(e) duine amháin as an gceantar a shonraítear in alt 26D(1)(e),

(f) duine amháin as an gceantar a shonraítear in alt 26D(1)(f), agus

(g) duine amháin as an gceantar a shonraítear in alt 26D(1)(g).

(2) Mura mbeidh dóthain comhaltaí tofa i gceantar, ceapfaidh an tAire duine amháin nó níos mó chun an Údaráis de réir mhír 4A den Chéad Sceideal.

Returning officers

- 26F.** (1) Before fixing a day for the holding of a poll for an election under section 26B, the local authority in each district shall appoint a returning officer.
- (2) A returning officer appointed under subsection (1) shall—
- (a) do all such acts and things as may be necessary for the effectual conduct of an election in accordance with this Part,
 - (b) ascertain and declare the results of that election, and
 - (c) confirm the results of that election to the Minister.
- (3) A returning officer appointed under subsection (1) may appoint one or more persons to be a deputy returning officer and may delegate to any deputy returning officer such of the functions of the returning officer as may be specified in the appointment.
- (4) A returning officer appointed under subsection (1) and a deputy returning officer appointed under subsection (3) shall be subject to such terms and conditions, including remuneration, as the Minister may determine.

Regulations

- 26G.** (1) The Minister may make regulations for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), regulations under this section may provide for all or any of the following matters:
- (a) arrangements for the conduct of elections, including the management of elections by local authorities;
 - (b) arrangements for the holding of an election on the same day as a local authority election, where the Minister considers it appropriate and after consultation with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, including the appointment of the same returning officer and the sharing of resources;
 - (c) the eligibility of candidates for election;
 - (d) the nomination of candidates;
 - (e) death of a candidate;
 - (f) the use of the register of local government electors for an election, including the modification of that register and the publication or making available of the register, as modified;

Cinn chomhairimh

- 26F.** (1) Sula ndéanfaidh an t-údarás áitiúil i ngach ceantar lá a shocrú chun vótaíocht a dhéanamh le haghaidh toghchán faoi alt 26B, ceapfaidh sé ceann comhairimh.
- (2) Déanfaidh ceann comhairimh a cheapfar faoi fho-alt (1)—
- (a) gach gníomh agus ní is gá chun toghchán a stiúradh go héifeachtúil de réir na Coda seo,
 - (b) torthaí an toghcháin sin a chinntiú agus a dhearbhu, agus
 - (c) torthaí an toghcháin sin a dhaingniú don Aire.
- (3) Féadfaidh ceann comhairimh a cheapfar faoi fho-alt (1) duine amháin nó níos mó a cheapadh le bheith ina leascheann comhairimh nó ina leaschinn chomhairimh agus féadfaidh sé nó sí cibé cuid d'fheidhmeanna an chinn comhairimh a shonrófar sa cheapachán a tharmligean chuig aon leascheann comhairimh.
- (4) Beidh ceann comhairimh a cheapfar faoi fho-alt (1) agus leascheann comhairimh a cheapfar faoi fho-alt (3) faoi réir cibé téarmaí agus coinníollacha, lena n-áirítear luach saothair, a chinnfidh an tAire.

Rialacháin

- 26G.** (1) Féadfaidh an tAire rialacháin a dhéanamh chun críocha na Coda seo.
- (2) Gan dochar do ghinearáltacht fho-alt (1), féadfar foráil a dhéanamh le rialacháin faoin alt seo maidir le gach ceann nó aon cheann de na nithe seo a leanas:
- (a) socruithe chun toghcháin a stiúradh, lena n-áirítear údarais áitiúla do bhainistiú toghchán;
 - (b) socruithe chun toghchán a dhéanamh an lá céanna le toghchán údarais áitiúil, i gcás gur cuí leis an Aire é agus tar éis dul i gcomhairle leis an Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht, lena n-áirítear an ceann comhairimh céanna a cheapadh agus acmhainní a chomhroinnt;
 - (c) intofacht iarrthóirí;
 - (d) iarrthóirí a ainmniú;
 - (e) bás iarrthóra;
 - (f) clár na dtoghthóirí rialtais áitiúil a úsáid le haghaidh toghcháin, lena n-áirítear an clár sin a mhodhnú agus an clár, arna mhodhnú, a fhoilsiú nó a chur ar fáil;

- (g) the form and content of the ballot paper in respect of an election;
- (h) arrangements relating to the provision of information and polling cards to electors;
- (i) the appointment of the returning officer for the purposes of an election, his or her duties and the assignment of staff to him or her for the purposes of the election;
- (j) the taking of the poll and the counting (including recounting) of votes in an election;
- (k) the designation of polling stations;
- (l) the use of school premises and other premises to which the public ordinarily have access for purposes connected with an election;
- (m) arrangements for voting at an election in person or by post;
- (n) polling at an election on islands forming part of a district;
- (o) the maintenance of the secrecy of the ballot;
- (p) the removal of persons misconducting themselves in polling stations;
- (q) procedures to be followed in cases of disorder or obstruction at polling stations or otherwise in relation to the holding of an election;
- (r) procedures to be followed in the case of interference with ballot boxes or damage to ballot boxes;
- (s) modifications of the provisions specified in section 26H(1) for the purposes of that section;
- (t) such other matters relating to the holding of an election as the Minister considers appropriate.

Electoral offences

- 26H.** (1) Articles 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118 and 119 of the Regulations of 1995 shall apply and have effect in relation to an election as they apply and have effect in relation to a local election, subject to such modifications as shall be specified in regulations under section 26G(2)(s) and any other necessary modifications.
- (2) It shall be an offence to contravene an Article of the Regulations of 1995, applied and modified under subsection (1) in relation to an election, the contravention of which is declared in the Regulations of 1995 to be an offence.”.

- (g) foirm agus lánas an pháipéir ballóide i leith toghcháin;
- (h) socruithe a bhaineann le faisnéis agus cártaí vótaíochta a sholáthar do thoghthóirí;
- (i) an ceann comhairimh a cheapadh chun críoch toghcháin, a dhualgais nó a dualgais, agus foireann a shannadh dó nó di chun críocha an toghcháin;
- (j) an vótaíocht a thógáil agus vótaí i dtoghchán a chomhaireamh (lena n-áirítear iad a athchomhaireamh);
- (k) stáisiúin vótaíochta a shainainmniú;
- (l) áitribh scoile, agus áitribh eile a mbíonn rochtain ag an bpobal orthu de ghnáth, a úsáid chun críoch a bhaineann le toghchán;
- (m) socruithe le haghaidh vótáil i dtoghchán go pearsanta nó leis an bpost;
- (n) vótaíocht i dtoghchán ar oileáin is cuid de cheantar;
- (o) rúndacht na ballóide a choimeád;
- (p) daoine a bheidh á mí-iompar féin i stáisiúin vótaíochta a chur amach;
- (q) nósanna imeachta a bheidh le leanúint i gcásanna mí-oird nó coisc ag stáisiúin vótaíochta nó thairis sin i ndáil le toghchán a dhéanamh;
- (r) nósanna imeachta a bheidh le leanúint i gcás cur isteach ar bhoscaí ballóide nó damáiste do bhoscaí ballóide;
- (s) modhnuithe ar na forálacha a shonraítear in alt 26H(1) chun críocha an ailt sin;
- (t) cibé nithe eile a bhaineann le toghchán a dhéanamh agus is cuí leis an Aire.

Cionta toghcháin

- 26H.** (1) Beidh feidhm ag Airteagail 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118 agus 119 de Rialacháin 1995 agus beidh éifeacht leo i ndáil le toghchán mar atá feidhm acu agus éifeacht leo i ndáil le toghchán áitiúil, faoi réir cibé modhnuithe a bheidh sonraithe i rialacháin faoi alt 26G(2)(s) agus aon mhodhnuithe eile is gá.
- (2) Aon Airteagal de Rialacháin 1995 arna chur chun feidhme agus arna mhodhnú faoi fho-alt (1) i ndáil le toghchán a ndearbhaítear i Rialacháin 1995 gur cion é a shárú, is cion é a shárú.”.

Amendment of First Schedule to Principal Act

9. The First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended—

(a) by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph 2:

“2. (1) A member of an tÚdarás shall, unless the member sooner dies, resigns, becomes disqualified or is removed from office, hold office for such period not exceeding 6 years as the Minister may determine.

(2) The period of office of an elected member shall commence on such date as may be specified by the Minister.”,

(b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph 4:

“Insufficient elected members.

4A. (1) The Minister shall appoint a person to an tÚdarás if there are insufficient elected members in a district and that member shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be an elected member.

(2) A member appointed under paragraph (1) shall, in so far as possible, reside in the district concerned.”,

(c) in paragraph 5—

(i) by the insertion of the following subparagraph after subparagraph (1):

“(1A) Where the casual vacancy is caused by—

(a) an elected member, the Minister may request that member to nominate a person for appointment, who resides in the district concerned, or

(b) an appointed member, the Minister shall appoint a person from the reserve list.”,

and

(ii) by the insertion of the following subparagraph after subparagraph (3):

“(4) Where the member causing the casual vacancy is an elected member, the person appointed to fill that vacancy under this paragraph shall, in so far as possible, reside in the district concerned.”,

(d) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph 5:

“Temporary absences.

5A. (1) A temporary absence among the members of an tÚdarás shall occur where the member is unable to attend 2 or more consecutive meetings of an tÚdarás and his or her absence is not due to a casual vacancy but is—

Leasú ar an gCéad Sceideal a ghabhann leis an bPríomh-Acht**9. Leasaítear an Chéad Sceideal a ghabhann leis an bPríomh-Acht—**

(a) tríd an mír seo a leanas a chur in ionad mhír 2:

“2. (1) Beidh comhalta den Údarás i seilbh oifige ar feadh cibé tréimhse nach faide ná 6 bliana a chinnfidh an tAire mura túisce a éagfaidh an comhalta, a éireoidh sé nó sí as oifig, a thiocfaidh sé nó sí faoi dhícháilíocht nó a chuirfear as oifig é nó í.

(2) Tosóidh tréimhse oifige comhalta thofa cibé dáta a shonróidh an tAire.”,

(b) tríd an mír seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh mhír 4:

“Gan dóthain comhaltaí tofa a bheith ann.

4A. (1) Ceapfaidh an tAire duine chun an Údaráis más rud é nach mbeidh dóthain comhaltaí tofa i gceantar agus measfar, chun críocha an Achta seo, gur comhalta tofa an comhalta sin.

(2) Is sa cheantar lena mbaineann, a mhéid is féidir, a bheidh cónaí ar chomhalta a cheapfar faoi mhír (1).”,

(c) i mír 5—

(i) tríd an bhfomhír seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fhomhír (1):

“(1A) Más rud é, maidir leis an gcorrholúntas—

(a) gur comhalta tofa is cúis leis, féadfaidh an tAire a iarraidh ar an gcomhalta sin duine a bhfuil cónaí air nó uirthi sa cheantar lena mbaineann a ainmniú lena cheapadh nó lena ceapadh, nó

(b) gur comhalta ceaptha is cúis leis, ceapfaidh an tAire duine ón liosta cúltaca.”,

agus

(ii) tríd an bhfomhír seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fhomhír (3):

“(4) I gcás gur comhalta tofa an comhalta is cúis leis an gcorrholúntas, is sa cheantar lena mbaineann, a mhéid is féidir, a bheidh cónaí ar an duine a cheapfar chun an folúntas sin a líonadh faoin mír seo.”,

(d) tríd an mír seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh mhír 5:

“Asláithreachtaí sealadacha.

5A. (1) Tarlóidh asláithreacht shealadach i measc chomhaltaí an Údaráis i gcás go mbeidh an comhalta neamhábalt freastal ar 2 chruinniú chomhleanúnacha nó níos mó den Údarás agus nach corrholúntas is cúis lena asláithreacht nó lena hasláithreacht ach—

- (a) occasioned by the member taking leave under the Maternity Protection Act 1994, or
 - (b) for another reason,

referred to in this paragraph as a ‘temporary absence’.
 - (2) A member of an tÚdarás who intends to take a temporary absence shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, but not later than 4 weeks before the date of the commencement of the absence, notify the chairperson of his or her intention.
 - (3) The Minister may appoint a person (referred to in this paragraph as a ‘temporary member’) to an tÚdarás for the duration of a temporary absence.
 - (4) Where the temporary absence is caused by—
 - (a) an elected member, the Minister may request that member to nominate a person for appointment, who resides in the district concerned, or
 - (b) an appointed member, the Minister may appoint a temporary member from the reserve list.
 - (5) Where the member causing the absence is an elected member, the temporary member shall, in so far as possible, reside in the district concerned.
 - (6) A term served by a temporary member shall not be taken into account for the purposes of paragraph 3.
 - (7) A member of an tÚdarás shall not be entitled to any remuneration or allowances for expenses for the duration of his or her temporary absence.”,
- (e) in paragraph 7(2)—
- (i) by the substitution of the following clause for clause (a):

“(a) is adjudicated bankrupt and such bankruptcy has not been annulled or discharged,”,

and
 - (ii) by the insertion of the following clause after clause (a):

“(aa) is an individual who is party to an insolvency arrangement (within the meaning of the Personal Insolvency Act 2012) that has not ceased to have effect,”,

- (a) gur an comhalta do thógáil saoire faoin Acht um Chosaint Mháithreachais, 1994 faoi deara í, nó
 - (b) go bhfuil cúis eile léi,
- agus gairtear ‘asláithreacht shealadach’ di sa mhír seo.
- (2) Déanfaidh comhalta den Údarás a mbeidh sé ar intinn aige nó aici asláithreacht shealadach a thógáil, a luaithe is indéanta le réasún, ach tráth nach déanaí ná 4 seachtaine tar éis dháta thosach na hasláithreachta, fógra a thabhairt don chathaoirleach i dtaobh é sin a bheith ar intinn aige nó aici.
 - (3) Féadfaidh an tAire duine (dá ngairtear ‘comhalta sealadach’ sa mhír seo) a cheapadh chun an Údaráis fad a mhairfidh asláithreacht shealadach.
 - (4) Más rud é, maidir leis an asláithreacht shealadach—
 - (a) gur comhalta tofa is cúis léi, féadfaidh an tAire a iarraidh ar an gcomhalta sin duine a bhfuil cónaí air nó uirthi sa cheantar lena mbaineann a ainmniú lena cheapadh nó lena ceapadh, nó
 - (b) gur comhalta ceaptha is cúis léi, féadfaidh an tAire comhalta sealadach a cheapadh ón liosta cúltaca.
 - (5) I gcás gur comhalta tofa an comhalta is cúis leis an asláithreacht, is sa cheantar lena mbaineann, a mhéid is féidir, a bheidh cónaí ar an gcomhalta sealadach.
 - (6) Ní dhéanfar téarma a bhfónfaidh comhalta sealadach ar a fheadh a chur i gcuntas chun críocha mhír 3.
 - (7) Ní bheidh comhalta den Údarás i dteideal aon luach saothair ná liúntais i leith caiteachas fad a mhairfidh a asláithreacht shealadach nó a hasláithreacht shealadach.”
- (e) i mír 7(2)—
- (i) tríd an gclásal seo a leanas a chur in ionad chlásal (a):
 - “(a) má bhreithnítear ina fhéimheach nó ina féimheach é nó í agus mura mbeidh an fhéimheacht sin neamhnithe ná urscaoilte,”

agus
 - (ii) tríd an gclásal seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh chlásal (a):
 - “(aa) más pearsa aonair é nó í is páirtí i gcomhshocraíocht dócmhainneachta (de réir bhrí an Achta um Dhócmhainneacht Phearsanta, 2012) nach bhfuil scortha d’éifeacht a bheith léi,”

and

(f) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph 12:

“Absence from meetings.

13. The Minister may reduce the remuneration and allowances for expenses payable to a member of an tÚdarás where he or she fails, without reasonable excuse, to attend one or more meetings of an tÚdarás.”.

PART 3

AMENDMENT OF OTHER ACTS

Amendment of Electoral Act 1992

10. The Electoral Act 1992 is amended—

(a) in section 2, by the insertion, in subsection (1) of the following definition:

“ ‘election to Údarás na Gaeltachta’ means an election of members to Údarás na Gaeltachta held pursuant to Part IVA of the Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979;”,

(b) in section 11, by the substitution, in subsection (2), of “European, local or Limerick mayoral election, an election to Údarás na Gaeltachta or a referendum” for “European, local or Limerick mayoral election or a referendum”,

(c) in section 14(2), by the substitution, in paragraph (c), of “European, local or Limerick mayoral election, an election to Údarás na Gaeltachta or a referendum” for “European, local or Limerick mayoral election, or a referendum”,

(d) in section 17, by the substitution—

(i) in subsection (1), of “Act 2024, at a plebiscite in accordance with Part 6 of that Act or at an election to Údarás na Gaeltachta” for “Act 2024 or at a plebiscite in accordance with Part 6 of that Act”, and

(ii) in subsection (6)(c), of “European, local or Limerick mayoral election, an election to Údarás na Gaeltachta or a referendum” for “European, local or Limerick mayoral election or a referendum”,

(e) in section 165(1)—

(i) by the substitution, in paragraph (h), of “election;” for “election.”, and

(ii) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (h):

“(i) the poll at an election to Údarás na Gaeltachta.”,

and

agus

- (f) tríd an mír seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh mhír 12:

“Asláithreacht ó chruinnithe.

13. Féadfaidh an tAire an luach saothair agus na liúntais i leith caiteachas is iníoctha le comhalta den Údarás a laghdú i gcás go mainneoidh sé nó sí, gan leithscéal réasúnach, freastal ar chruinniú amháin nó níos mó den Údarás.”.

CUID 3

LEASÚ AR ACHTANNA EILE

Leasú ar an Acht Toghcháin, 1992

10. Leasaítear an tAcht Toghcháin, 1992—

- (a) in alt 2, tríd an míniú seo a leanas a chur isteach i bhfo-alt (1):

“ciallaíonn ‘toghchán chun Údarás na Gaeltachta’ toghchán chun comhaltaí a thoghadh chun Údarás na Gaeltachta a dhéanfar de bhun Chuid IVA den Acht um Údarás na Gaeltachta, 1979;”,

- (b) in alt 11, trí “toghchán sonrach Eorpach, toghchán sonrach áitiúil nó toghchán sonrach do Mhéara Luimnigh, toghchán chun Údarás na Gaeltachta nó reifrinn” a chur in ionad “toghchán sonrach Eorpach, toghchán sonrach áitiúil nó toghchán sonrach do Mhéara Luimnigh nó reifrinn” i bhfo-alt (2),

- (c) in alt 14(2), trí “toghchán Eorpach, toghchán áitiúil nó toghchán do Mhéara Luimnigh, toghchán chun Údarás na Gaeltachta nó reifrinn” a chur in ionad “toghchán Eorpach, toghchán áitiúil nó toghchán do Mhéara Luimnigh nó reifrinn” i mír (c),

- (d) in alt 17—

- (i) trí “2024, i bpobalbhreith de réir Chuid 6 den Acht sin nó i dtoghchán chun Údarás na Gaeltachta” a chur in ionad “2024 nó i bpobalbhreith de réir Chuid 6 den Acht sin” i bhfo-alt (1), agus

- (ii) trí “toghchán Eorpach, toghchán áitiúil nó toghchán do Mhéara Luimnigh, toghchán chun Údarás na Gaeltachta nó reifrinn” a chur in ionad “toghchán Eorpach, toghchán áitiúil nó toghchán do Mhéara Luimnigh nó reifrinn” i bhfo-alt (6)(c),

- (e) in alt 165(1)—

- (i) trí “Luimnigh;” a chur in ionad “Luimnigh.” i mír (h), agus

- (ii) tríd an mír seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh mhír (h):

“(i) an vótaíocht i dtoghchán chun Údarás na Gaeltachta.”,

agus

- (f) in Rule 14 of the Second Schedule, by the substitution in paragraph (5) of “a Limerick mayoral election, an election to Údarás na Gaeltachta or” for “a Limerick mayoral election or”.

Amendment of Electoral Act 1997

11. Section 18 of the Electoral Act 1997 is amended, in subsection (2), by the substitution of “the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024 or the Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979” for “the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024”.

Amendment of Litter Pollution Act 1997

12. The Litter Pollution Act 1997 is amended—

- (a) in section 19(7), by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (c):

“(ca) relates to an election, within the meaning of the Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979, unless the advertisement has been in place prior to the making of an order by the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht appointing the day upon which the poll shall be taken, or for 7 days or more after the latest day upon which the poll was taken for the election, or”,

and

- (b) in section 21(3), by the substitution, in paragraph (b) of “a plebiscite within the meaning of Part 6 of the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024, an election within the meaning of the Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979,” for “a plebiscite within the meaning of Part 6 of the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024,”.

Amendment of Official Languages Act 2003

13. The Official Languages Act 2003 is amended—

- (a) by the substitution, in section 9(4)(a), of “ná ní lú feiceálacht, infheictheacht ná inléiteacht an chuid den téacs a bheidh i nGaeilge ná an chuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus” for “agus beidh sí chomh feiceálach, chomh hinfheicthe agus chomh hinléite céanna leis an gcuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus”,

- (b) in section 9C—

- (i) by the substitution, in subsection (1), of “creating, renewing” for “renewing”,

- (ii) by the substitution, in subsection (2)(b), of “ná ní lú feiceálacht, infheictheacht ná inléiteacht an chuid den téacs a bheidh i nGaeilge ná an chuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus” for “agus beidh sí chomh feiceálach, chomh hinfheicthe agus chomh hinléite céanna leis an gcuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus”, and

- (iii) by the substitution, in subsection (3), of “programme, brand” for “programme”,

- (f) i Riail 14 den Dara Sceideal, trí “i dtoghchán do Mhéara Luimnigh, i dtoghchán chun Údarás na Gaeltachta nó” a chur in ionad “i dtoghchán do Mhéara Luimnigh nó” i mír (5).

Leasú ar an Acht Toghcháin, 1997

11. Leasaítear alt 18 den Acht Toghcháin, 1997, i bhfo-alt (2), trí “an Achta Rialtais Áitiúil (Méara Luimnigh) agus Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha, 2024 nó an Achta um Údarás na Gaeltachta, 1979” a chur in ionad “an Achta Rialtais Áitiúil (Méara Luimnigh) agus Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha, 2024”.

Leasú ar an Acht um Thruailliú ó Bhruscar, 1997

12. Leasaítear an tAcht um Thruailliú ó Bhruscar, 1997—

- (a) in alt 19(7), tríd an mír seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh mhír (c):

“(ca) go mbaineann sé le toghchán, de réir bhrí an Achta um Údarás na Gaeltachta, 1979, mura rud é go bhfuil an fógrán ann sula ndéanann an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta ordú lena gceaptar an lá ar a dtógfar an vótaíocht, nó ar feadh 7 lá nó tréimhse is faide ná sin tar éis an lae is déanaí ar ar tógadh an vótaíocht don toghchán, nó”,

agus

- (b) in alt 21(3), trí “pobalbhreith de réir bhrí Chuid 6 den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil (Méara Luimnigh) agus Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha, 2024, toghchán de réir bhrí an Achta um Údarás na Gaeltachta, 1979,” a chur in ionad “pobalbhreith de réir bhrí Chuid 6 den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil (Méara Luimnigh) agus Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha, 2024,” i mír (b).

Leasú ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003

13. Leasaítear Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003—

- (a) trí “ná ní lú feiceálacht, infheictheacht ná inléiteacht an chuid den téacs a bheidh i nGaeilge ná an chuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus” a chur in ionad “agus beidh sí chomh feiceálach, chomh hinfheicthe agus chomh hinléite céanna leis an gcuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus” in alt 9(4)(a),

- (b) in alt 9C—

(i) trí “á chruthú, á athnuachan” a chur in ionad “á athnuachan” i bhfo-alt (1),

(ii) trí “ná ní lú feiceálacht, infheictheacht ná inléiteacht an chuid den téacs a bheidh i nGaeilge ná an chuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus” a chur in ionad “agus beidh sí chomh feiceálach, chomh hinfheicthe agus chomh hinléite céanna leis an gcuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus” i bhfo-alt (2)(b), agus

(iii) trí “cláir, branda” a chur in ionad “cláir” i bhfo-alt (3),

(c) in section 9D—

- (i) by the substitution, in subsection (1), of “Irish language only and that name shall be the only name used by the body” for “Irish language”, and
- (ii) by the substitution, in subsection (3)(b), of “ná ní lú feiceálacht, infheictheacht ná inléiteacht an chuid den téacs a bheidh i nGaeilge ná an chuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus” for “agus beidh sí chomh feiceálach, chomh hinfheicthe agus chomh hinléite céanna leis an gcuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus”,

(d) in section 10A—

- (i) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (1):

“(1A) This section shall not apply to—

(a) advertising that—

- (i) targets an audience outside the State, and
- (ii) is not in an official language,

or

(b) advertising on—

- (i) an audiovisual broadcasting service,
- (ii) an audiovisual on-demand media service, or
- (iii) a sound broadcasting service,

that promotes a programme.”,

and

- (ii) by the insertion, in subsection (2), of the following definitions:

“ ‘Act of 2009’ means the Broadcasting Act 2009;

‘audiovisual broadcasting service’ has the same meaning as it has in the Act of 2009;

‘audiovisual on-demand media service’ has the same meaning as it has in the Act of 2009;

‘programme’ has the same meaning as it has in the Act of 2009;

‘sound broadcasting service’ has the same meaning as it has in the Act of 2009;”,

(e) in section 18B—

- (i) by the substitution, in subsection (1)(b), of “15” for “10”, and
- (ii) by the substitution, in subsection (3)(d), of “11” for “6”,

(c) in alt 9D—

- (i) trí “i nGaeilge amháin a bheidh sé agus is é an t-ainm sin an t-aon ainm a úsáidfídh an comhlacht” a chur in ionad “i nGaeilge a bheidh sé” i bhfo-alt (1), agus
- (ii) trí “ná ní lú feiceálacht, infheictheacht ná inléiteacht an chuid den téacs a bheidh i nGaeilge ná an chuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus” a chur in ionad “agus beidh sí chomh feiceálach, chomh hinfheicthe agus chomh hinléite céanna leis an gcuid den téacs a bheidh i mBéarla, agus” i bhfo-alt (3)(b),

(d) in alt 10A—

- (i) tríd an bhfo-alt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt (1):

“(1A) Ní bheidh feidhm ag an alt seo—

- (a) maidir le fógraíocht—

- (i) a dhírítear ar lucht féachana agus éisteachta atá lasmuigh den Stát, agus

- (ii) nach bhfuil i dteanga oifigiúil,
ná

- (b) maidir le fógraíocht—

- (i) ar sheirbhís craolacháin closamhairc,
- (ii) ar sheirbhís meán closamhairc ar éileamh, nó
- (iii) ar sheirbhís craolacháin fuaime,
lena gcuirtear clár chun cinn.”,

agus

- (ii) trí na mínithe seo a leanas a chur isteach i bhfo-alt (2):

“ciallaíonn ‘Acht 2009’ an tAcht Craolacháin, 2009;

tá le ‘seirbhís craolacháin closamhairc’ an bhrí chéanna atá leis in Acht 2009;

tá le ‘seirbhís meán closamhairc ar éileamh’ an bhrí chéanna atá leis in Acht 2009;

tá le ‘clár’ an bhrí chéanna atá leis in Acht 2009;

tá le ‘seirbhís craolacháin fuaime’ an bhrí chéanna atá leis in Acht 2009;”

(e) in alt 18B—

- (i) trí “15” a chur in ionad “10” i bhfo-alt (1)(b), agus
- (ii) trí “11” a chur in ionad “6” i bhfo-alt (3)(d),

- (f) by the substitution, in section 18C(3), of the following paragraph for paragraph (b):

“(b) increasing the number of staff of public bodies who are competent in the Irish language so that, as soon as practicable after the establishment day, but no later than 31 December 2030, at least 20 per cent of appointments made in a public body in a given year, by way of recruitment or promotion, are so competent.”,

and

- (g) by the insertion of the following section after section 19A:

“Savers

19AA. (1) Notwithstanding the repeal of section 14 by section 17 of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, a scheme in respect of a public body under section 14 shall remain in force until a language standard is prescribed under section 19A(2) to apply to that body.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of section 18 by section 17 of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, section 18 shall continue to apply to a public body until a language standard is prescribed under section 19A(2) to apply to that body.”.

Amendment of Gaeltacht Act 2012

14. The Gaeltacht Act 2012 is amended—

- (a) in section 7—

- (i) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (11):

“(11A) An Irish language plan approved before or after the date of the coming into operation of *section 14(a)(i) of the Údarás na Gaeltachta (Amendment) Act 2026* shall remain in force for a period of 7 years from the date on which the Minister approves the plan and the Minister may extend the duration of the plan to a period of not more than 9 years, following a request from Údarás na Gaeltachta.”,

and

- (ii) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (16):

“(17) At any time before, or within the period of 12 months after, the expiry of the period for which an Irish language plan remains in force pursuant to subsection (11A), the Minister may—

- (a) exercise his or her power under subsection (18) to direct Údarás na Gaeltachta to request a new Irish language plan from the organisation previously selected under subsection (6), (10)(a) or (13)(a), or

(f) tríd an mír seo a leanas a chur in ionad mhír (b) in alt 18C(3):

“(b) an líon foirne de chuid comhlachtaí poiblí atá inniúil i nGaeilge a mhéadú ionas go mbeidh, a luaithe is indéanta tar éis an lae bunaithe, ach tráth nach déanaí ná an 31 Nollaig 2030, 20 faoin gcéad ar a laghad de na daoine a cheapfar i gcomhlacht poiblí i mbliain ar leith, ar mhodh earcaíochta nó ardú céime, inniúil amhlaidh.”,

agus

(g) tríd an alt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh alt 19A:

“Cosaintí

19AA. (1) D’ainneoin aisghairm alt 14 le halt 17 d’Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021, fanfaidh scéim i leith comhlacht poiblí faoi alt 14 i bhfeidhm go dtí go bhforordófar caighdeán teanga faoi alt 19A(2) a mbeidh feidhm aige maidir leis an gcomhlacht sin.

(2) D’ainneoin aisghairm alt 18 le halt 17 d’Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021, leanfaidh alt 18 d’fheidhm a bheith aige maidir le comhlacht poiblí go dtí go bhforordófar caighdeán teanga faoi alt 19A(2) a mbeidh feidhm aige maidir leis an gcomhlacht sin.”.

Leasú ar Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012

14. Leasaítear Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012—

(a) in alt 7—

(i) tríd an bhfo-alt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt (11):

“(11A) Maidir le plean Gaeilge arna cheadú roimh an dáta a thiocfaidh *alt 14(a)(i)* den *Acht um Údarás na Gaeltachta (Leasú), 2026* i ngníomh nó dá éis sin, fanfaidh sé i bhfeidhm ar feadh tréimhse 7 mbliana ón dáta a cheadóidh an tAire an plean agus féadfaidh an tAire ré an phlean a fhadú go tréimhse nach faide ná 9 mbliana, tar éis iarraidh a fháil ó Údarás na Gaeltachta.”,

agus

(ii) trí na fo-ailt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt (16):

“(17) Tráth ar bith sula n-éagfaidh an tréimhse, nó laistigh den tréimhse 12 mhí tar éis dul in éag don tréimhse, a bhfanfaidh plean Gaeilge i bhfeidhm ar a feadh de bhun fho-alt (11A), féadfaidh an tAire—

(a) a chumhacht nó a cumhacht faoi fho-alt (18) a fheidhmiú chun a threorú d’Údarás na Gaeltachta plean Gaeilge nua a iarraidh ar an eagraíocht a roghnaíodh roimhe sin faoi fho-alt (6), (10)(a) nó (13) (a), nó

- (b) publish, in such form and manner as the Minister considers appropriate, a notice of the Minister’s intention to approve a new Irish language plan in respect of the Gaeltacht Language Planning Area concerned and shall include in the notice—
 - (i) the period within which applications under subsection (4) may be made,
 - (ii) the period within which a plan referred to in subsection (7) is to be prepared and submitted to the Minister, and
 - (iii) any other information that the Minister considers necessary for the purposes of this section.
- (18) Where following a review under section 8(3), the Minister considers that the Irish language plan prepared by an organisation referred to in subsection (17)(a) has been effective in encouraging the use of the Irish language in accordance with prescribed language planning criteria, the Minister may direct *Údarás na Gaeltachta* to request that organisation to prepare a new Irish language plan in respect of the Gaeltacht Language Planning area, within such period as may be specified by the Minister.
- (19) Where the organisation the subject of the request under subsection (18) prepares a new Irish language plan, it shall submit that plan to the Minister for approval within the period specified.
- (20) The Minister may, having regard to prescribed language planning criteria, approve the plan submitted to him or her under subsection (19) and the Minister shall, by notice in writing, inform the organisation concerned.
- (21) Where the Minister publishes a notice under subsection (17)(b), subsections (4) to (13) shall apply to the selection of an organisation and the approval of a new Irish language plan, subject to the following modifications:
 - (a) each reference to ‘subsection (3)’ shall be construed as a reference to ‘subsection (17)(b)’;
 - (b) the reference in subsection (11) to ‘the Minister shall make an order under subsection (2) in relation to the area concerned’ shall be construed as a reference to ‘the Minister shall, by notice in writing, inform the organisation concerned’.
- (b) in section 8(3), by the substitution, of “approved under subsection (11) or (20) of section 7” for “approved of under section 7(11)”,
- (c) in section 9—
 - (i) by the substitution, in subsection (1), of “situated in, adjacent to or within a radius of 30 kilometres of a Gaeltacht Language Planning Area” for “situated in or adjacent to a Gaeltacht Language Planning Area”,

- (b) fógra a fhoilsiú, i cibé foirm agus ar cibé modh is cuí leis an Aire, i dtaobh é a bheith ar intinn ag an Aire plean Gaeilge nua a cheadú i leith an Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Gaeltachta lena mbaineann agus áireoidh sé nó sí san fhógra—
 - (i) an tréimhse ar laistigh di a fhéadfar iarratais faoi fho-alt (4) a dhéanamh,
 - (ii) an tréimhse ar laistigh di a dhéanfar plean dá dtagraítear i bhfo-alt (7) a ullmhú agus a chur faoi bhráid an Aire, agus
 - (iii) aon fhaisnéis eile is dóigh leis an Aire is gá chun críocha an ailt seo.
- (18) I gcás, tar éis athbhreithniú faoi alt 8(3), go measfaidh an tAire go raibh an plean Gaeilge a d'ullmhaigh eagraíocht dá dtagraítear i bhfo-alt (17)(a) éifeachtach i dtaca le húsáid na Gaeilge a spreagadh de réir critéir pleanála teanga fhorordaithe, féadfaidh an tAire a threorú d'Údarás na Gaeltachta a iarraidh ar an eagraíocht sin plean Gaeilge nua a ullmhú i leith an Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Gaeltachta laistigh de cibé tréimhse a shonróidh an tAire.
- (19) I gcás go ndéanfaidh an eagraíocht is ábhar don iarraidh faoi fho-alt (18) plean Gaeilge nua a ullmhú, déanfaidh sí an plean sin a chur faoi bhráid an Aire lena cheadú laistigh den tréimhse a shonrófar.
- (20) Féadfaidh an tAire, ag féachaint do chritéir pleanála teanga fhorordaithe, an plean a bheidh curtha faoina bhráid nó faoina bráid faoi fho-alt (19) a cheadú agus cuirfidh an tAire an méid sin in iúl don eagraíocht lena mbaineann trí fhógra i scríbhinn.
- (21) I gcás go bhfoilseoidh an tAire fógra faoi fho-alt (17)(b), beidh feidhm ag fo-alt (4) go (13) maidir le heagraíocht a roghnú agus maidir le plean Gaeilge nua a cheadú, faoi réir na modhnuithe seo a leanas:
 - (a) forléireofar gach tagairt do ‘fo-alt (3)’ mar thagairt do ‘fo-alt (17) (b)’;
 - (b) déanfar an tagairt, i bhfo-alt (11), do ‘déanfaidh an tAire ordú faoi fho-alt (2) i ndáil leis an limistéar lena mbaineann’ a fhorléiriú mar thagairt do ‘cuirfidh an tAire an méid sin in iúl don eagraíocht lena mbaineann trí fhógra i scríbhinn’.
- (b) in alt 8(3), trí “arna cheadú faoi fho-alt (11) nó (20) d’alt 7” a chur in ionad “arna cheadú faoi alt 7(11)”,
- (c) in alt 9—
 - (i) trí “suite i Limistéar Pleanála Teanga Gaeltachta, tadhlach leis nó laistigh de gha 30 ciliméadar uaidh” a chur in ionad “suite i Limistéar Pleanála Teanga Gaeltachta, nó tadhlach leis” i bhfo-alt (1),

(ii) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (11):

“(11A) An Irish language plan approved before or after the date of the coming into operation of *section 14(c)(ii)* of the *Údarás na Gaeltachta (Amendment) Act 2026* shall remain in force for a period of 7 years from the date on which the Minister approves the plan and the Minister may extend the duration of the plan to a period of not more than 9 years, following a request from *Údarás na Gaeltachta* or *Foras na Gaeilge*, as may be appropriate.”,

and

(iii) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (15):

“(16) At any time before, or within the period of 12 months after, the expiry of the period for which an Irish language plan remains in force pursuant to subsection (11A), the Minister may—

(a) exercise his or her power under subsection (17) to direct *Údarás na Gaeltachta* or *Foras na Gaeilge*, as may be appropriate, to request a new Irish language plan from the organisation previously selected under subsection (5), (6), (10)(a) or (13)(a), or

(b) publish, in such form and manner as the Minister considers appropriate, a notice of the Minister’s intention to approve a new Irish language plan in respect of the Gaeltacht Service Town concerned and shall include in the notice—

(i) the period within which an Irish language plan referred to in subsection (7) is to be prepared and submitted to the Minister, and

(ii) any other information that the Minister considers necessary for the purposes of this section.

(17) Where following a review under section 10(3), the Minister considers that the Irish language plan prepared by an organisation referred to in subsection (16)(a) has been effective in encouraging the use of the Irish language in accordance with prescribed language planning criteria, the Minister may direct *Údarás na Gaeltachta* or *Foras na Gaeilge*, as may be appropriate, to request that organisation to prepare a new Irish language plan in respect of the Gaeltacht Service Town, within such period as may be specified by the Minister.

(18) Where the organisation the subject of the request under subsection (17) prepares a new Irish language plan, it shall submit that plan to the Minister for approval within the period specified.

(19) The Minister may, having regard to prescribed language planning criteria, approve the plan submitted to him or her under subsection (18) and the Minister shall, by notice in writing, inform the organisation concerned.

(ii) tríd an bhfo-alt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt (11):

“(11A) Maidir le plean Gaeilge arna cheadú roimh an dáta a thiocfaidh alt 14(c)(ii) den *Acht um Údarás na Gaeltachta (Leasú), 2026* i ngníomh nó dá éis sin, fanfaidh sé i bhfeidhm ar feadh tréimhse 7 mbliana ón dáta a cheadóidh an tAire an plean agus féadfaidh an tAire ré an phlean a fhadú go tréimhse nach faide ná 9 mbliana, tar éis iarraidh a fháil ó Údarás na Gaeltachta nó ó Fhoras na Gaeilge, de réir mar is cuí.”,

agus

(iii) trí na fo-ailt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt (15):

“(16) Tráth ar bith sula n-éagfaidh an tréimhse, nó laistigh den tréimhse 12 mhí tar éis dul in éag don tréimhse, a bhfanfaidh plean Gaeilge i bhfeidhm ar a feadh de bhun fho-alt (11A), féadfaidh an tAire—

(a) a chumhacht nó a cumhacht faoi fho-alt (17) a fheidhmiú chun a threorú d’Údarás na Gaeltachta nó d’Fhoras na Gaeilge, de réir mar is cuí, plean Gaeilge nua a iarraidh ar an eagraíocht a roghnaíodh roimhe sin faoi fho-alt (5), (6), (10)(a) nó (13)(a), nó

(b) fógra a fhoilsiú, i cibé foirm agus ar cibé modh is cuí leis an Aire, i dtaobh é a bheith ar intinn ag an Aire plean Gaeilge nua a cheadú i leith an Bhaile Seirbhíse Gaeltachta lena mbaineann agus áireoidh sé nó sí san fhógra—

(i) an tréimhse ar laistigh di a dhéanfar plean Gaeilge dá dtagraítear i bhfo-alt (7) a ullmhú agus a chur faoi bhráid an Aire, agus

(ii) aon fhaisnéis eile is dóigh leis an Aire is gá chun críocha an ailt seo.

(17) I gcás, tar éis athbhreithniú faoi alt 10(3), go measfaidh an tAire go raibh an plean Gaeilge a d’ullmhaigh eagraíocht dá dtagraítear i bhfo-alt (16)(a) éifeachtach i dtaca le húsáid na Gaeilge a spreagadh de réir critéir pleanála teanga fhorordaithe, féadfaidh an tAire a threorú d’Údarás na Gaeltachta nó d’Fhoras na Gaeilge, de réir mar is cuí, a iarraidh ar an eagraíocht sin plean Gaeilge nua a ullmhú i leith an Bhaile Seirbhíse Gaeltachta laistigh de cibé tréimhse a shonróidh an tAire.

(18) I gcás go ndéanfaidh an eagraíocht is ábhar don iarraidh faoi fho-alt (17) plean Gaeilge nua a ullmhú, déanfaidh sí an plean sin a chur faoi bhráid an Aire lena cheadú laistigh den tréimhse a shonrófar.

(19) Féadfaidh an tAire, ag féachaint do chritéir pleanála teanga fhorordaithe, an plean a bheidh curtha faoina bhráid nó faoina bráid faoi fho-alt (18) a cheadú agus cuirfidh an tAire an méid sin in iúl don eagraíocht lena mbaineann trí fhógra i scríbhinn.

- (20) Where the Minister publishes a notice under subsection (16)(b), subsections (3) to (13) shall apply to the selection of an organisation and the approval of a new Irish language plan, subject to the following modifications:
- (a) each reference to ‘subsection (2)’ shall be construed as a reference to ‘subsection (16)(b)’;
 - (b) the reference in subsection (11) to ‘the Minister shall make an order under subsection (1) in relation to the town concerned’ shall be construed as a reference to ‘the Minister shall by notice in writing inform the organisation concerned’.”
- (d) in section 10—
- (i) by the substitution, in subsection (1), of “subsection (11) or (19) of section 9” for “section 9(11)”, and
 - (ii) by the substitution, in subsection (3), of “approved under subsection (11) or (19) of section 9” for “approved of under section 9(11)”,
- and
- (e) in section 11—
- (i) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (4):
 - “(4A) An Irish language plan approved before or after the date of the coming into operation of *section 14(e)(i)* of the *Údarás na Gaeltachta (Amendment) Act 2026* shall remain in force for a period of 7 years from the date on which the Minister approves the plan and the Minister may extend the duration of the plan to a period of not more than 9 years, following a request from Foras na Gaeilge.
 - (4B) At any time before, or within the period of 12 months after, the expiry of the period for which an Irish language plan remains in force pursuant to subsection (4A), the Minister may—
 - (a) exercise his or her power under subsection (4C) to direct Foras na Gaeilge to request a new Irish language plan from the organisation that prepared the previous plan approved under subsection (4), or
 - (b) direct Foras na Gaeilge to select a new organisation to prepare an Irish language plan in respect of the Irish Language Network, within such period as may be specified by the Minister.
 - (4C) Where following a review under subsection (5), the Minister considers that the Irish language plan prepared by an organisation referred to in subsection (4B)(a) has been effective in encouraging the use of the Irish language in accordance with prescribed language planning criteria, the Minister may direct Foras na Gaeilge to request that organisation to prepare a new Irish language plan in respect of the Irish Language Network, within such period as may be specified by the Minister.

(20) I gcás go bhfoilseoidh an tAire fógra faoi fho-alt (16)(b), beidh feidhm ag fo-ailt (3) go (13) maidir le heagraíocht a roghnú agus maidir le plean Gaeilge nua a cheadú, faoi réir na modhnuithe seo a leanas:

(a) forléireofar gach tagairt do ‘fo-alt (2)’ mar thagairt do ‘fo-alt (16)(b)’;

(b) déanfar an tagairt, i bhfo-alt (11), do ‘déanfaidh an tAire ordú faoi fho-alt (1) i ndáil leis an mbaile lena mbaineann’ a fhorléiriú mar thagairt do ‘cuirfidh an tAire an méid sin in iúl don eagraíocht lena mbaineann trí fhógra i scríbhinn’.”,

(d) in alt 10—

(i) trí “faoi fho-alt (11) nó (19) d’alt 9” a chur in ionad “faoi alt 9(11)” i bhfo-alt (1), agus

(ii) trí “arna cheadú faoi fho-alt (11) nó (19) d’alt 9” a chur in ionad “arna cheadú faoi alt 9(11)” i bhfo-alt (3),

agus

(e) in alt 11—

(i) trí na fo-ailt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh fho-alt (4):

“(4A) Maidir le plean Gaeilge arna cheadú roimh an dáta a thiocfaidh *alt 14(e)(i)* den *Acht um Údarás na Gaeltachta (Leasú), 2026* i ngníomh nó dá éis sin, fanfaidh sé i bhfeidhm ar feadh tréimhse 7 mbliana ón dáta a cheadóidh an tAire an plean agus féadfaidh an tAire ré an phlean a fhadú go tréimhse nach faide ná 9 mbliana, tar éis iarraidh a fháil ó Fhoras na Gaeilge.

(4B) Tráth ar bith sula n-éagfaidh an tréimhse, nó laistigh den tréimhse 12 mhí tar éis dul in éag don tréimhse, a bhfanfaidh plean Gaeilge i bhfeidhm ar a feadh de bhun fho-alt (4A), féadfaidh an tAire—

(a) a chumhacht nó a cumhacht faoi fho-alt (4C) a fheidhmiú chun a threorú d’Fhoras na Gaeilge plean Gaeilge nua a iarraidh ar an eagraíocht a d’ullmhaigh an plean roimhe sin a ceadaíodh faoi fho-alt (4), nó

(b) a threorú d’Fhoras na Gaeilge eagraíocht nua a roghnú chun plean Gaeilge a ullmhú i leith an Líonra Gaeilge laistigh de cibé tréimhse a shonróidh an tAire.

(4C) I gcás, tar éis athbhreithniú faoi fho-alt (5), go measfaidh an tAire go raibh an plean Gaeilge a d’ullmhaigh eagraíocht dá dtagraítear i bhfo-alt (4B)(a) éifeachtach i dtaca le húsáid na Gaeilge a spreagadh de réir critéir pleanála teanga fhorordaithe, féadfaidh an tAire a threorú d’Fhoras na Gaeilge a iarraidh ar an eagraíocht sin plean Gaeilge nua a ullmhú i leith an Líonra Gaeilge laistigh de cibé tréimhse a shonróidh an tAire.

(4D) Where the organisation the subject of the request under subsection (4C) prepares a new Irish language plan, it shall submit that plan to the Minister for approval within the period specified.

(4E) The Minister may, having regard to prescribed language planning criteria, approve the plan submitted to him or her under subsection (4D) and the Minister shall, by notice in writing, inform the organisation concerned.

(4F) Where the Minister gives a direction under subsection (4B)(b), subsections (3) and (4) shall apply to the selection of an organisation and the approval of a new Irish language plan, subject to the modification that the reference in subsection (4) to ‘the Minister shall make an order under subsection (1)’ shall be construed as a reference to ‘the Minister shall by notice in writing inform the organisation’.”,

and

(ii) by the substitution, in subsection (5), of “subsection (4) or (4E)” for “subsection (4)”.

Amendment of Data Protection Act 2018

15. The Data Protection Act 2018 is amended—

(a) in section 39(3)—

(i) by the substitution, in paragraph (b), of “the European Parliament, a local authority or a member elected to *Údarás na Gaeltachta*, or” for “the European Parliament or a local authority, or”, and

(ii) by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph (c):

“(c) a candidate for election to the office of President of Ireland or Mayor of Limerick, to the European Parliament, a local authority or *Údarás na Gaeltachta* or for membership of either House of the *Oireachtas*.”,

and

(b) in section 40(5)—

(i) by the substitution, in paragraph (c), of “local authority,” for “local authority.”, and

(ii) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (c):

“(d) a member elected to *Údarás na Gaeltachta*.”.

Amendment of Local Government Act 2001

16. Section 192 of the Local Government Act 2001 is amended by the substitution of “Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht” for “Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs” in each place where it occurs.

- (4D) I gcás go ndéanfaidh an eagraíocht is ábhar don iarraidh faoi fho-alt (4C) plean Gaeilge nua a ullmhú, déanfaidh sí an plean sin a chur faoi bhráid an Aire lena cheadú laistigh den tréimhse a shonrófar.
- (4E) Féadfaidh an tAire, ag féachaint do chritéir pleanála teanga fhorordaithe, an plean a bheidh curtha faoina bhráid nó faoina bráid faoi fho-alt (4D) a cheadú agus cuirfidh an tAire an méid sin in iúl don eagraíocht lena mbaineann trí fhógra i scríbhinn.
- (4F) I gcás go dtabharfaidh an tAire treorú faoi fho-alt (4B)(b), beidh feidhm ag fo-ailt (3) agus (4) maidir le heagraíocht a roghnú agus maidir le plean Gaeilge nua a cheadú, faoi réir an mhodhnaithe go ndéanfar an tagairt, i bhfo-alt (4), do ‘déanfaidh an tAire ordú faoi fho-alt (1)’ a fhorléiriú mar thagairt do ‘cuirfidh an tAire an méid sin in iúl don eagraíocht lena mbaineann trí fhógra i scríbhinn’.”,

agus

- (ii) trí “i bhfo-alt (4) nó (4E)” a chur in ionad “i bhfo-alt (4)” i bhfo-alt (5).

Leasú ar an Acht um Chosaint Sonraí, 2018

15. Leasaítear an tAcht um Chosaint Sonraí, 2018—

- (a) in alt 39(3)—

- (i) trí “de Pharlaimint na hEorpa, d’údarás áitiúil nó comhalta arna thoghadh nó arna thoghadh chun Údarás na Gaeltachta, nó” a chur in ionad “de Pharlaimint na hEorpa nó d’údarás áitiúil, nó” i mír (b), agus
- (ii) tríd an mír seo a leanas a chur in ionad mhír (c):

“(c) iarrthóir lena thoghadh nó lena thoghadh chun oifig Uachtarán na hÉireann nó oifig Mhéara Luimnigh, chun Parlaimint na hEorpa, chun údarais áitiúil nó chun Údarás na Gaeltachta nó iarrthóir ar chomhaltas de cheachtar Teach den Oireachtas.”,

agus

- (b) in alt 40(5)—

- (i) trí “d’údarás áitiúil,” a chur in ionad “d’údarás áitiúil.” i mír (c), agus
- (ii) tríd an mír seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh mhír (c):

“(d) comhalta arna thoghadh nó arna thoghadh chun Údarás na Gaeltachta.”.

Leasú ar an Acht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001

- 16.** Leasaítear alt 192 den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001 tríd an leagan cuí gramadaí de “an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta” a chur in ionad an leagain chomhfhreagraigh de “an tAire Gnóthaí Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta” gach áit a bhfuil sé.