



**BILLE AN FHOIRIS NAISIUNTA  
UM ARD-OIDEACHAS, LUIMNEACH, 1980**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION,  
LIMERICK, BILL, 1980**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

1. The purpose of this Bill is to establish the National Institute for Higher Education, Limerick, on a statutory basis. The Institute is a third-level educational institution providing degree, diploma and certificate courses, and has been operating for some years on an *ad hoc* basis. Students were first admitted to the Institute in Autumn 1972.

2. Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Bill are self-explanatory.

3. Section 4 provides for the functions of the Institute. The chief functions shall be to provide degree, diploma and certificate courses, and to engage in research. The Institute may acquire, hold and dispose of property subject to the approval of the Minister for Education. It may also institute and award scholarships, prizes and other awards.

4. Sections 5 and 6 provide for the establishment of a governing authority (to be known as the Governing Body) for the Institute and prescribe its structure and functions. Detailed provisions for the operation of the Governing Body are set out in the First Schedule.

5. Section 7 provides for a post of Chief Officer of the Institute, to be known as the Director. The Second Schedule sets out the conditions governing the appointment of the Director.

6. Section 8 provides for the establishment of an Academic Board for the Institute and prescribes its functions.

7. Section 9 enables the Institute to appoint such members of staff as necessary and determine their conditions of service subject to the approval of the Minister and the Minister for Finance or the Minister and the Minister for the Public Service, as appropriate.

8. Section 10 provides that the staff serving in the *ad hoc* Institute may be transferred to the service of the statutory body and provides for the conditions of service, pay and pension rights of the transferred staff.

9. Section 11 places responsibility on the Institute to prepare and submit to the Minister as soon as possible after the passing of the Act, a pension scheme for staff. All provisions of any pension scheme submitted by the Institute will be subject to the approval of the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister for the Public Service. Every approved scheme will be laid before each House of the Oireachtas and may be annulled by resolution within twenty-one sitting days.



10. Section 12 requires the Governing Body to submit to the Minister annually a report of the work of the Institute. The section also provides that the Institute will give the Minister any information about its operation that he may require from time to time.

11. Section 13 enables the Higher Education Authority to pay grants (of such amounts as the Minister with the consent of the Minister for Finance may approve) to the Institute out of moneys received by the Authority for institutions of higher education, as provided by section 12 (1) of the Higher Education Authority Act 1971.

12. Section 14 requires the Institute to keep accounts which must be submitted annually to the Comptroller and Auditor General. When received by the Institute the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General must be submitted with the accounts to the Minister. The Minister will lay the accounts before each House of the Oireachtas.

13. Section 15 enables the Institute to charge fees for admission to courses, lectures, examinations, exhibitions or any other event held by the Institute or for admission to any event held at the Institute.

14. Section 16 relates to expenses incurred in the administration of the Act being paid out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

15. Section 17 provides for the short title and the commencement date.

*An Roinn Oideachais,  
Feabhra, 1980.*