



DÁIL ÉIREANN

BILLE NA dTEANGACHA OIFIGIÚLA (LEASÚ), 2019 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019

LEASUITHE COISTE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

**(Imleabhar 2 - Béarla)
(Volume 2 - English)**

DÁIL ÉIREANN

BILLE NA dTEANGACHA OIFIGIÚLA (LEASÚ), 2019 —ROGHCHOISTE

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019 —SELECT COMMITTEE

Leasuithe Amendments

SECTION 1

1. In page 6, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“ “Commissioner” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2(1) of the Principal Act, namely “Oifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla” established by section 20 of that Act or the holder, for the time being, of that office.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

SECTION 2

2. In page 6, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of long title of Principal Act

2. The Principal Act is amended by substituting the following for its long title:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE FOR ALL OFFICIAL PURPOSES IN THE STATE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE STATE IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS, IN ACTS OF THE OIREACHTAS, IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, IN COMMUNICATING WITH OR PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AND IN CARRYING OUT THE WORK OF PUBLIC BODIES; TO SET OUT THE DUTIES OF SUCH BODIES WITH RESPECT TO THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE STATE; AND FOR THOSE PURPOSES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OIFIG CHOIMISINÉIR NA dTEANGACHA OIFIGIÚLA AND TO DEFINE ITS FUNCTIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLICATION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CERTAIN INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 2]

3. In page 6, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of long title of Principal Act

2. The Principal Act is amended by substituting the following for its long title:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES IN THE STATE; FOR THE CULTIVATION OF EQUALITY OF RIGHTS AND EQUAL PRIVILEGES WITH REGARD TO THE USE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES, IN PARTICULAR WITH RESPECT TO THEIR USE IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS, IN ACTS OF THE OIREACTAS, IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, IN COMMUNICATING WITH OR PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AND IN CARRYING OUT THE WORK OF PUBLIC BODIES; TO SET OUT THE DUTIES OF SUCH BODIES WITH RESPECT TO THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE STATE; AND FOR THOSE PURPOSES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OIFIG CHOIMISINÉIR NA dTEANGACHA OIFIGIÚLA AND TO DEFINE ITS FUNCTIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLICATION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CERTAIN INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

4. In page 6, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of long title of Principal Act

2. The Principal Act is amended by substituting the following for its long title:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES IN THE STATE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE STATE IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS, IN ACTS OF THE OIREACTAS, IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, IN COMMUNICATING WITH OR PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AND IN CARRYING OUT THE WORK OF PUBLIC BODIES; TO SET OUT THE DUTIES OF SUCH BODIES WITH RESPECT TO THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE STATE; AND FOR THOSE PURPOSES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OIFIG CHOIMISINÉIR NA dTEANGACHA OIFIGIÚLA AND TO DEFINE ITS FUNCTIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLICATION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CERTAIN INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

5. In page 6, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 1 of Principal Act

2. Section 1 of the Principal Act is amended by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (2):

“(2) This Act shall come into operation on the day after the passing of this Act, and as regards the specific provisions of this Act, for which a day on which they shall come into operation has been fixed under this Act, they shall come into operation on that day, as shall be fixed for each of those provisions under this Act.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

6. In page 6, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“(c) by substituting the following definition for the definition of “public body”:

“ ‘public body’ means—

- (a) every body, organisation or group that receives money directly from a Minister of the Government, a Department of State, the Central Fund or another public body in circumstances where the amount or aggregate of the amounts so received constitutes 50 per cent or more of the current expenditure of that body, organisation or group in a financial year,
- (b) any body, organisation or group that at the date of the coming into operation of this subsection is a public body but subsequently comes under private ownership and control,
- (c) any body, organisation or group performing functions which previously stood vested by law in a body, organisation or group under public ownership or control,
- (d) any other body, organisation or group on which functions in relation to the general public or a class of the general public stand conferred or permitted by any enactment or by any public service obligation contracts or by any license or authority given under any enactment, or
- (e) any body specified in subparagraphs (1), (2), (3) or (4) of the First Schedule;”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

7. In page 6, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“(c) by the substitution of the following definition for the definition of “court”:

“ ‘court’ means any tribunal of a public body empowered by law to determine the rights and liabilities of the parties before it;”.

[SECTION 2]

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

8. In page 6, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“(c) by the substitution of the following definition for the definition of “Minister”:

“ ‘Minister’ means the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media or such Department as has responsibility for duties pertaining to the Irish language, the Gaeltacht or the Irish-speaking community;”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

9. In page 6, between lines 24 and 25, to insert the following:

“ ‘competence’, in the context of the Irish language in this Act, and in any other legislation, means level B2 fluency or higher on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages;”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

10. In page 8, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“ ‘official form’ means a form used by a public body in connection with the provision of a service by that body;”.

—An tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

11. In page 8, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“ ‘official form’ means any form, including a hard copy form and an online form, created by a public body, or on its behalf, which is to be completed by, or on behalf of, a person, including a legal person not being the emanation of the State;”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

SECTION 3

12. In page 8, between lines 4 and 5, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 3 of Principal Act

3. Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by the deletion of “, to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Minister for Finance;”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

13. In page 8, between lines 4 and 5, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 4 of Principal Act

3. Section 4(1) of the Principal Act is amended by the deletion of “, with the consent of the Minister for Finance”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 3]

14. In page 8, line 8, to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Catherine Connolly.

15. In page 8, line 9, after “person”, to insert the following:

“, within 28 days of the date on which the vacancy occurred in the position of principal officer of the public body,”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

16. In page 8, between lines 9 and 10, to insert the following:

“(1A) This provision shall come into operation on and from the date the *Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021* comes into operation, notwithstanding any other enactments.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

17. In page 8, line 11, to delete “as soon as may be after it is made” and substitute the following:

“within 28 days of the date the vacancy occurred in the position of principal officer of the public body”.

—Catherine Connolly.

18. In page 8, line 15, to delete “thereunder.” and substitute “thereunder.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

19. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“(3) (a) Each head of a public body shall appoint and designate a person from his or her senior management team, being a person having a role in the executive or management of the body, to be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the Official Languages Acts in that body, so far as they relate to that body, and to discharge any other statutory duties in respect of an official language.

(b) Such person shall provide to the head, every six months at least, a report in writing describing the progress that has been made and is being made at the time of the writing of such report. The head of the public body shall publish each report on the website of the public body as soon as possible, but no later than one month from the date he or she receives it.

(c) The member of staff designated under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall, after consulting with the Advisory Committee, designate positions in the body to which conditions relating to language competence shall be attached, in particular in order to discharge statutory duties of the body as regards standards.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 4]

SECTION 4

20. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Irish Language Charter

4. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new Part after Part 1 (Preliminary and General):

“PART 1A

IRISH LANGUAGE CHARTER

National Language and First Official Language of Ireland

5. (1) The Irish language is the national language of Ireland.
(2) The Irish language is the first official language of Ireland.

Fundamental Language Rights

6. (1) Every person shall have the right to receive communications in the Irish language from the following bodies; civil administration, the health and social services, the public utility companies, State companies, the State-funded organisations, the organisations funded by the European Union, the professional corporations, the trade unions, and every company which transacts business in the Gaeltacht.
(2) In any public assembly, every person shall have the right to speak in Irish.
(3) Workers in the Gaeltacht shall have the right to conduct their work through the medium of the Irish language.
(4) Consumers of goods and services in the Gaeltacht shall have the right to be informed and to be served in the Irish language.
(5) Every person who is entitled to receive an education in the State shall have the right to receive that education through the medium of the Irish language.

Duties of the State

7. The Irish language being the first official language, it shall be the duty of the State to do all within its range of activity to establish and preserve it in its status as the national language and to recognise it as the national language for all official purposes.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

21. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 5 of Principal Act

4. Section 5 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of “, and shall submit it to the

[SECTION 4]

Joint Committee on the Irish language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community,” after “Oireachtas”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

22. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 6 of Principal Act

4. Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (1) by the substitution of “The Irish and English languages are the official languages of the Houses of the Oireachtas, and a member” for “A member”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

23. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 6 of Principal Act

4. Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (1) by the substitution of “Every person” for “A member of either House of the Oireachtas”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

24. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 6 of Principal Act

4. Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (1) by the substitution of “of the Houses of the Oireachtas” for “in that House or of a committee of either House, a joint committee of both Houses or sub-committee of such a committee or joint committee”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

25. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 6 of Principal Act

4. Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (3):

“(4) (a) There shall be caused to be made available such appropriate facilities as to enable simultaneous or consecutive interpreting of debates and of any other proceedings of the Houses of the Oireachtas to be performed from one official language to the other official language.

(b) This subsection shall come into operation on 1 January 2026.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 4]

26. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 6 of Principal Act

4. Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (3):

“(4) (a) All support services made available by the Houses of the Oireachtas to their members for the carrying out of their work or to the public shall be made available through the Irish language or through both the Irish and English languages.

(b) This subsection shall come into operation on 1 January 2026.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

27. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 7 of Principal Act

4. The Principal Act is amended by substituting the following section for section 7:

“7. (1) Every Bill and every Act of the Oireachtas shall be enacted, printed and published in each of the official languages simultaneously.

(2) The Order Paper and Official Report for each House of the Oireachtas and the *Iris Oifigiúil* shall be printed and published in each of the official languages simultaneously.

(3) Every Statutory Instrument to which the Statutory Instruments Act 1947 relates shall be made, printed and published in each of the official languages simultaneously.

(4) The Government shall take all possible measures to ensure that any treaty or convention between Ireland and another state or states is authenticated in each of the official languages.

(5) This section shall come into operation on 1 January 2025.

(6) Nothing in this section shall prevent the enactment, printing or publishing of a Bill or Act in each of the official languages simultaneously, the printing or publication of the Order Paper of any House of the Oireachtas or the *Iris Oifigiúil* in each of the official languages simultaneously, the making, printing or publication of a statutory instrument in each of the official languages simultaneously nor the authentication of a treaty or convention in each of the official languages.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 4]

28. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 7 of Principal Act

4. The Principal Act is amended by the substitution of the following section for section 7:

“Acts of the Oireachtas

7. (1) Every Bill and every Act of the Oireachtas shall be enacted, printed and published in each of the official languages simultaneously.
- (2) The Order Paper for each House of the Oireachtas and the *Iris Oifigiúil* shall be printed and published in each of the official languages simultaneously.
- (3) Every Statutory Instrument to which the Statutory Instruments Act 1947 applies shall be made, printed and published in each of the official languages simultaneously.
- (4) This section shall come into operation on 1 January 2022. Nothing in this section shall prevent the enactment, printing or publication of a Bill or Act in each of the official languages simultaneously, the printing or publication of the Order Paper of any House of the Oireachtas or the *Iris Oifigiúil* in each of the official languages simultaneously, the making, printing or publication of a statutory instrument in each of the official languages simultaneously.”.

—Brid Smith.

29. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following new section:

“4. The Principal Act is amended by the substitution of the following section for section 7:

“Acts of the Oireachtas

7. (1) Every Bill and every Act of the Oireachtas shall be enacted, printed and published in each of the official languages simultaneously.
- (2) The Order Paper for each House of the Oireachtas and the *Iris Oifigiúil* shall be printed and published in each of the official languages simultaneously.
- (3) Every statutory instrument to which the Statutory Instruments Act 1947 applies shall be made, printed and published in each of the official languages simultaneously.
- (4) The Government shall take all possible measures to ensure that any treaty or convention between Ireland and another state or states is authenticated in each of the official languages.
- (5) Subsection (1) shall come into operation on 1 January 2022, notwithstanding any other enactment. Subsections (2), (3) and (4) shall come into operation on 1 January 2029, notwithstanding any other enactment.

[SECTION 4]

- (6) Nothing in this section shall prevent the enactment, printing or publication of a Bill or Act in each of the official languages simultaneously, the printing or publication of the Order Paper of any House of the Oireachtas or the *Iris Oifigiúil* in each of the official languages simultaneously, the making, printing or publication of a statutory instrument in each of the official languages simultaneously nor the authentication of a treaty or convention in each of the official languages.”.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

30. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Use of the Official Languages in Government

4. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 7:

“Use of the Official Languages in Government

- 7A. There shall be caused to be made available such facilities as are appropriate so as to enable simultaneous or consecutive interpreting of any official proceedings or of any official oral statements of the Government to be performed from one official language to the other official language for the benefit of those listening.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

31. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act

4. Section 8 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (3) by the substitution of “shall” for “may”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

32. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act

4. Section 8 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (3):

“(3A) It shall be the duty of every court, other than the Supreme Court sitting as a full Court with each judge thereof sitting, in any civil proceedings before it, to ensure that—

- (a) where Irish is the language which the parties have chosen to use in the proceedings before it in any particular case, each judge or other officer hearing such proceedings shall have the competence to understand evidence and submissions in Irish without the assistance of an interpreter,

[SECTION 4]

- (b) where English is the language which the parties have chosen to use in the proceedings before it in any particular case, each judge or other officer hearing such proceedings shall have the competence to understand evidence and submissions in English without the assistance of an interpreter, and
 - (c) where both Irish and English are the languages which the parties have chosen to use in the proceedings before it in any particular case, each judge or other officer hearing such proceedings shall have the competence to understand evidence and submissions in both English and Irish without the assistance of an interpreter.
- (3B) It shall be the duty of every criminal court, other than the Supreme Court sitting as a full Court with each judge thereof sitting, in any trial or appeal before it, to ensure that—
- (a) where Irish is the language which the accused has chosen to use in the proceedings before it in any particular case, each judge hearing such proceedings shall have the competence to understand evidence and submissions in Irish without the assistance of an interpreter, and
 - (b) where English is the language which the accused has chosen to use in the proceedings before it in any particular case, each judge hearing such proceedings shall have the competence to understand evidence and submissions in English without the assistance of an interpreter.
- (3C) The provisions of subsections (3A) and (3B) shall come into operation on 1 January 2026 notwithstanding any other enactment.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

33. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act

4. Section 8 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (4):
- “(4A) (a) A criminal prosecution shall be conducted in the official language which the accused has chosen to use in the proceedings and if necessary separate trials shall be conducted in the case of persons jointly accused in order to enforce this right.
 - (b) Where an accused person does not choose a particular official language to be used in the proceedings the prosecutor shall use in the proceedings such official language as appears to him to be reasonable, having regard to the circumstances.
 - (c) The judge before whom the accused first appears must inform him or her of this right.

[SECTION 4]

- (d) The provisions set out in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) shall come into operation on 1 January 2026 notwithstanding any other enactment.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

34. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act

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

“(7) It shall be the duty of every court in any proceedings before it to ensure that—

- (a) where Irish is the language which the parties have chosen to use in the proceedings before it in any particular case, every judgment and court document shall be given in Irish, and every order in the cause shall be drafted in Irish,
- (b) where English is the language which the parties have chosen to use in the proceedings before it in any particular case that every judgment and court document shall be given in English, and that every order in the cause shall be drafted in English, and
- (c) where both Irish and English are the languages which the parties have chosen to use in the proceedings before it in any particular case that every judgment and court document shall be given in both Irish and English, and that every order in the cause shall be drafted in both Irish and English.

- (8) The provisions set out in subsection (7) shall come into operation on 1 January 2026, notwithstanding any other enactment.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

35. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act

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

“(7) (a) In the case of a sitting of court within the Gaeltacht, the proceedings shall be conducted through the medium of Irish without prejudice to the rights of any party or witness to use the language of his or her choice subject to the preceding provisions.

- (b) This provision shall come into operation on 1 January 2026, notwithstanding any other enactment.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 4]

36. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act

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

“(7) (a) In the case of a district of the District Court or a circuit of the Circuit Court containing a Gaeltacht area, one sitting of the District Court and one sitting of the Circuit Court shall be held in that area at least annually. At least one sitting of the District Court and at least one sitting of the Circuit Court shall be held per legal term in the Donegal Gaeltacht, in the Connemara Gaeltacht and in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht.

(b) This provision shall come into operation on 1 January 2026, notwithstanding any other enactment.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

37. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Public Body

4. The Principal Act is amended—

(a) by the deletion of the First Schedule,

(b) by amending the following references to the First Schedule:

(i) in section 2(1) by the substitution of “section 8A” for “the First Schedule”;

(ii) in section 4(1)(c) by the substitution of “section 8A” for “subparagraph (3), (4) or (5) of paragraph 1 of the First Schedule,”;

(iii) in section 4(3) by the deletion of “or for the purposes of paragraph 1(5), or under paragraph 3, of the First Schedule”;

(iv) by the deletion of section 4(5);

(v) in section 10 by the deletion of “(other than a body, organisation or group standing prescribed pursuant to regulations for the purposes of clause (b) of paragraph 1(5) of the First Schedule)”;

(vi) in section 27(1) by the deletion of “(other than a Public body, standing prescribed for the purposes of paragraph 1(5) of the First Schedule)”;

(vii) in section 36, by the substitution of “of a Department of State or other person specified in section 8A” for “of a Department of State or other person specified in Part 1 of the First Schedule to that Act.”,

(c) in Part 3 by the insertion of the following section:

‘Public Body

8A. Subject to this section, each of the following shall be a public body for

[SECTION 4]

the purposes of this Act:

- (a) Every Government Department, every office or organisation established in the Constitution of Ireland, and the following offices:
 - (i) Commission for Public Service Appointments;
 - (ii) Office of the Revenue Commissioners;
 - (iii) Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs;
 - (iv) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; and
 - (v) Central Statistics Office,
- (b) Every other entity established by or under any enactment (other than the Companies Acts),
- (c) Every other entity established (other than under the Companies Acts) or appointed by the Government or by a Minister of the Government, including an entity established by a Minister of the Government under any scheme, order, or warrant,
- (d) Every State agency, board and company (commercial and non-commercial),
- (e) A local authority,
- (f) A health board and the Health Service Executive,
- (g) Retail banks,
- (h) Every body, organisation, company, subsidiary or group that receives funding directly from a Minister of the Government, a Department of State, the Central Fund or from another public body in circumstances where the amount or aggregate of the amounts so received constitutes 50 per cent or more of the current expenditure of that body, organisation or group in a financial year,
- (i) Any body, organisation, company, subsidiary or group that at the date of the coming into operation of this subsection is a public body but subsequently comes under private ownership and control,
- (j) Any body, organisation, company, subsidiary or group performing functions which previously stood vested in a body, organisation or group under public ownership or control,
- (k) Any other body, organisation, company, subsidiary or group on which functions in relation to the general public or a class of the general public stand conferred or permitted by any enactment or by any public service obligation contracts or by any licence or authority given under any enactment, in so far as relates to the performance of those particular functions.’.”

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 4]

38. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Receipt of services from public bodies in the official languages

4. The Principal Act is amended, in Part 3, by the insertion of the following sections:

“Right to deal with public bodies, and to receive services from them, in the official languages

8B. (1) Every person has the right to communicate with any public body, and to receive services available from it, in either of the official languages.

(2) In exercising a right conferred on any person by this section, no person or any public body or the State may bring into question the competence of that person in either of the official languages.

Duties of public bodies to ensure that persons can communicate with them, and receive services from them, in the official languages

8C. A public body shall ensure that any member of the public can communicate with it, and receive services available from it, in either of the official languages.

8D. Sections 8B and 8C shall come into operation on such day or days as may be fixed therefor but—

(a) no later than one year from the passing of this Act in the case of the public bodies mentioned in subsection (1) of section 1 of the First Schedule in their communications with persons within Gaeltacht areas,

(b) no later than three years from the passing of this Act in the case of the public bodies mentioned in subsection (1) of section 1 of the First Schedule in their communications with persons outside of Gaeltacht areas, and

(c) no later than six months from the confirmation of language standards by the Minister under section 19 in the case of other public bodies.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

39. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act

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

“(7) (a) In this subsection, ‘Act of 1961’ means the Courts (Supplemental Provisions) Act, 1961.

(b) Section 5 of the Act of 1961 is amended by inserting the following subsection after subsection (7):

“(8) (a) Any qualified person, in accordance with this section, shall have the capacity to read and understand the Constitution of Ireland in its entirety in both official languages prior to being appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

(b) This subsection shall apply to every appointment made after the coming into operation of the *Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021*.’.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

40. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act

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

“(7) No person shall be admitted by the Chief Justice to practise as a barrister-at-law in the Courts unless before such person is so admitted he satisfies the Chief Justice, by such evidence as the Chief Justice shall prescribe, that he possesses a competent knowledge of the Irish language; provided always that nothing in this section contained shall prevent the Chief Justice from admitting to practise as a barrister-at-law in the Courts any member of three years’ standing at any other Bar who has been admitted to the degree of barrister-at-law by the Honourable Society of King’s Inns, Dublin, pursuant to a reciprocal arrangement whereby members of the Bar of Ireland may be admitted to practise at such other Bar.

(8) (a) In addition to the examinations mentioned in section 8 of the Solicitors (Ireland) Act, 1898, the Law Society of Ireland is hereby authorised and required to hold at least once in every year a first examination in the subject of the Irish language (in this Act referred to as a first examination in Irish) and a second examination in the subject of the Irish language (in this Act referred to as a second examination in Irish), and the provisions contained in the said section 8 shall apply to every such examination in the subject of the Irish language in like manner as they apply to the examinations mentioned in that section save that such examinations in the subject of the Irish language shall be conducted only by examiners for the time being approved of by the Minister for Education and that every second examination in Irish shall be so prescribed and conducted as to secure that persons who pass such examination have a competent knowledge of the Irish language.

(b) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Solicitors (Ireland) Act, 1898, no person shall be capable of being bound by indentures of apprenticeship to serve as an apprentice to a solicitor unless he has obtained from the Law Society of Ireland a certificate that he has

[SECTION 4]

passed a first examination in Irish, and no person shall be admitted a solicitor unless he has obtained from the Law Society of Ireland a certificate that he has passed a second examination in Irish within one year before the expiration of the term of his apprenticeship or within one year before being so admitted.

- (9) Subsections (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8) of section 1 and section 3 of the Legal Practitioners (Irish Language) Act 2008 are repealed.
- (10) Paragraphs 40(2A)(c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h) of the Solicitors Act 1954 are repealed.
- (11) This section shall enter into effect on 31 December 2025.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

41. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

- 4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (1) by the deletion of “may” for “shall”.”

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Bríd Smith, Catherine Connolly.

42. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

- 4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (1):

“(1A) (a) In this subsection—

‘Act of 1961’ means the Road Traffic Act 1961;

‘traffic sign’ has the same meaning as in section 95 (as amended by section 37(a)(ii) of the Road Traffic Act 1994) of the Act of 1961.

- (b) This subsection relates to traffic signs including those to which Regulations under section 95(2) of the Act of 1961 apply and those to which a direction under 95(16) of that Act applies.
- (c) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, any traffic sign placed in any site in the State shall be in the Irish language or in the Irish language and in English notwithstanding any other enactment. In the case of a traffic sign in both the Irish and English languages—
 - (i) the text in the Irish language shall be first,
 - (ii) the text in the Irish language shall be as prominent as or more prominent than, as visible as or more visible than, and as legible as or more legible than the text in the English language, and it shall be in the same font, typeface and style,

[SECTION 4]

- (iii) the lettering in the text in the Irish language shall not be smaller in size than the lettering in the text in the English language,
 - (iv) the text in the Irish language shall convey the same information as is conveyed by the text in the English language,
 - (v) no word of the text in the Irish language shall be abbreviated unless the word in the text in the English language, which is a translation thereof, is likewise abbreviated,
 - (vi) where the text in the Irish language and the text in the English language are the same or a placename or the pronunciation of a placename in the Irish language and in the English language are the same, the Irish language version shall be sufficient,
 - (vii) notwithstanding the generality of this subsection, traffic signs may be erected that are in accordance with the International System of Units as adopted by the Bureau Internationale des Poids et Mesures, established by the Metre Convention signed at Paris in 1875, and
 - (viii) where a placenames order under section 32 is, for the time being, in force, the Irish language version of the word or words specified in the order shall be used in any traffic signs erected.
- (d) Where it is intended to locate a traffic sign in the Irish language and in the English language and, as a result of text in both those languages being present, that it would be too large or that it would be difficult to read or that it would be likely to cause an obstruction, or that it would be likely that persons would, while reading it, constitute a danger to themselves or to others, 2 signs instead may be placed at that location, one bearing the information concerned in the Irish language and the other bearing the English language equivalent while complying with the provisions in subparagraphs (c)(ii) to (viii).
- (e) In the case of a conflict or a dispute regarding a placename in any location in the State, the Placenames Commission mentioned in section 31, or such persons as the Minister selects under section 32, shall make a decision as to the official correct version, and all road signs shall comply with their determinations.”.”

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

43. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (1):

“(1A) (a) In this subsection, ‘Act of 1972’ means the European Communities

Act 1972.

- (b) this subsection relates to language requirements for labelling to which regulations under section 3 of the Act of 1972 apply.
- (c) subject to the provisions of this subsection, a Minister of State shall ensure by regulations that any language requirements in respect of mandatory information on products which are available or sold to the public in the State are in accordance with the following conditions by 31 December 2025—
 - (i) mandatory information on any product available or sold to the public outside of Gaeltacht areas shall be indicated in both the Irish and English languages,
 - (ii) mandatory information on any product available or sold to the public in Gaeltacht areas shall be indicated in the Irish language only or in both the Irish and English languages,
 - (iii) in the case of mandatory information in both the Irish and English languages—
 - (I) the text in the Irish language shall be first,
 - (II) the text in the Irish language shall be as prominent as or more prominent than, as visible as or more visible than, and as legible as or more legible than the text in the English language, and it shall be in the same font, typeface and style,
 - (III) the lettering in the text in the Irish language shall not be smaller in size than the lettering in the text in the English language,
 - (IV) the text in the Irish language shall convey the same information as is conveyed by the text in the English language,
 - (V) no word of the text in the Irish language shall be abbreviated unless the word in the text in the English language, which is a translation thereof, is likewise abbreviated,
 - (VI) where the text of the Irish language and the text in the English language are the same, the Irish language version shall be sufficient.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

44. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

- 4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (2) by the insertion of “or on social media” after “mail”.”.

[SECTION 4]

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

45. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (2):

“(2A) If the public body itself initiates the communication, it must do so in both official languages, or it may do so only in the Irish language if it knows that the person to whom it is making communication lives in a Gaeltacht area.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

46. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (3) by the insertion of “, including any marketing material of the body or material which markets the public body itself or its services,” after “information”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

47. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (3):

“(4) A public body shall make the public aware, through active offer, of the services which persons may receive from it through the Irish language.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

48. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (3):

“(4) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, any warning notice on any product placed on the market in the State, including those to which section 12 of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018 applies, shall be in the Irish and English languages notwithstanding any other enactment. In the case of such warning notices—

(a) the text in the Irish language shall be first,

[SECTION 4]

- (b) the text in the Irish language shall be as prominent, as visible and as legible as the text in the English language, and it shall be in the same font, typeface and style,
- (c) the lettering in the text in the Irish language shall not be smaller in size than the lettering in the text in the English language,
- (d) the text in the Irish language shall convey the same information as is conveyed by the text in the English language, and
- (e) no word of the text in the Irish language shall be abbreviated unless the word in the text in the English language, which is a translation thereof, is likewise abbreviated.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

49. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (3):

“(4) Each public body shall make 20 per cent of its advertising in any particular year, including commercial, online, written, aural, visual and other advertising, in the Irish language and each public body shall make 5 per cent of its advertising in any particular year in the Irish language media.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Eamon Ó Cuív, Andrias Moynihan, Joe McHugh, Fergus O’Dowd, Marc Ó Cathasaigh.

50. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (3) by the insertion of “, including marketing material by the public body,” after “information”.”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly, Dara Calleary, Eamon Ó Cuív, Andrias Moynihan, Joe McHugh, Fergus O’Dowd, Marc Ó Cathasaigh.

51. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (3):

“(4) Each public body shall make 20 per cent of its advertising in any particular year, including commercial, online, written, aural, visual and other advertising, in the Irish language and each public body shall make 5 per cent of its advertising in any particular year in the Irish

[SECTION 4]

language media.

- (5) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, any warning notice on any alcoholic drinks' product placed on the market in the State shall be in the Irish and English languages notwithstanding any other enactment. In the case of such warning notices—
- (a) the text in the Irish language shall appear first,
 - (b) the text in the Irish language shall be as prominent, visible and legible as the text in the English language and it shall be in the same typeface, font and style,
 - (c) the lettering of the text in the Irish language shall not be smaller in size than the lettering of the text in the English language,
 - (d) the text in the Irish language shall communicate the same information as is communicated by the text in the English language, and
 - (e) a word in the text in the Irish language shall not be abbreviated unless the word in the text in the English language, of which it is the translation, is also abbreviated.”.”.

—Brid Smith.

52. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

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

“(7) These provisions shall come into operation on 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.”.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

53. In page 8, between lines 15 and 16, to insert the following:

“4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (3):

“(4) Where a public body has a name in both the Irish and English languages, such public body shall only use the Irish language name, or it shall use the Irish language name and the English language name together, throughout all of its documents, its correspondence, its bills and its advertisements, without exception. When the public body uses its name, it shall refer to itself by the Irish language name only, or by its Irish language and English language name together always.

(5) Where a public body has a name in both the Irish and English languages, such public body shall use its Irish language name only, or it shall use its Irish language and English language name together, in its website address, in its email address and in all of its other electronic addresses.

[SECTION 4]

- (6) Every public body shall have a bilingual logo. Where a body renews, changes or otherwise amends its logo, or a logo created by it for its services or activities, the body shall ensure that the logo is bilingual.
- (7) Each application, form, booklet, bill and other document issued by a public body shall be issued bilingually and have the following layout:
 - (a) the Irish language version and the English language version shall be laid out as two parts of the same document, instead of as two separate documents;
 - (b) the Irish language version and the English language version shall be laid out side by side on pages opposite each other in the same document and shall not be laid out at either end of the document;
 - (c) the Irish language text shall be as prominent, visible and legible as the English language text and in the same typeface, font and style;
 - (d) the lettering of the text in the Irish language shall not be smaller in size than the lettering of the text in the English language;
 - (e) the text in the Irish language shall communicate the same information as the text in the English language;
 - (f) a word in the text in the Irish language shall not be abbreviated unless the word in the text in the English language, of which it is the translation, is also abbreviated; and
 - (g) where the text in the Irish language and the text in the English language are the same or a placename in the Irish language and the English language are the same, the Irish language version shall be sufficient.
- (8) The Minister shall specify the design of the official forms in the two official languages.
- (9) These provisions shall come into operation on 1 January 2025, notwithstanding any other enactment.”.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

54. In page 8, to delete lines 18 to 41 and in page 10, to delete lines 1 to 12 and substitute the following:

“Duty of public bodies with respect to names and addresses in the Irish language

- 9A. (1) It shall be the duty of every public body to record and use the name or title or address of a person in the Irish language, or all of these, correctly in the Irish language.
- (2) This provision shall apply to all services offered or provided by the public body.
 - (3) All public bodies shall ensure that the information and

[SECTION 4]

communications systems, and any other systems (whether electronic or otherwise), that are used by the body in its communication with the general public, or a class of the general public, as may be appropriate, are configured in such a way that allows a person's name or title or address, in either or both of the official languages, to be correctly recorded and used by such systems in relation to the services offered or provided by it.

- (4) Every person shall have the option of using a title in either of the official languages or of not using such a title before his or her name, as he or she so wishes. Print and electronic interactions with a public body shall also fall within this provision.
- (5) The Postcode Management License Holder contract shall contain a provision requiring the Postcode Management License Holder, as part of that contract, to provide a fully bilingual service. The service provided by the Postcode Management License Holder shall incorporate a facility by which all persons may register their name and address in either of the official languages, enabling the name and address given to be used by all third parties, including their various electronic recording systems, irrespective of the official language of the State the name and address are registered in.
- (6) The Postcode Management License Holder trade name shall be changed from 'Eircode' to 'Éirchód'.

—Catherine Connolly.

55. In page 8, to delete lines 20 to 29 and substitute the following:

“9A. (1) Each public body shall ensure that”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

56. In page 8, to delete lines 20 to 37 and substitute the following:

“9A. (1) It shall be the duty of every public body to record and use correctly in the Irish language a person's name or title or address or all of these (including accents).

- (2) This provision shall apply to every service which a public body offers or provides.
- (3) Every public body shall ensure that the information and communication systems, and any other systems (whether electronic systems or non-electronic), which the public body uses during communication with the general public, or with a class of the general public, as the case may be, shall be configured in a way that those systems can record and use correctly a person's name or title or address in either of the official languages, or all of them, correctly in relation to the services which the body offers or provides.
- (4) Every person shall have the option of using a title in either of the two

[SECTION 4]

official languages of the State or not using a title before his or her name. This provision shall cover written and electronic interactions with a public body.

- (5) There shall be provision in the contract for the Postcode Management Licence Holder that every Postcode Management Licence Holder should, as part of that contract, provide a fully bilingual service. It shall be part of the service that the Postcode Management Licence Holder provides that there be a facility so that every person may register his or her name or address in either of the two official languages of the State, so that every third party may use the name and the address provided, including their electronic recording systems, regardless of which of the two official languages of the State the name or the address is registered in.
- (6) The tradename of the Postcode Management Licence Holder shall be changed from ‘Eircode’ to ‘Éirchód’.
- (7) These provisions shall be in place no later than 1 January 2025.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

57. In page 8, to delete lines 20 to 37 and substitute the following:

“9A. All public bodies shall ensure that the information and communications systems, and any other systems (whether electronic or otherwise), that are used by the body in its communications with the general public, or a class of the general public, as may be appropriate, are configured in a manner that permits a person’s name (including the patronymic or matronymic form of the name), address or title, in the Irish language, to be correctly recorded and used by such systems in relation to the services offered or provided by the body no later than 31 December 2025.”.

—Gary Gannon.

58. In page 8, line 23 to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Bríd Smith, Gary Gannon, Catherine Connolly.

59. In page 8, between lines 25 and 26, to insert the following:

“(1A) This Act acknowledges that a version of a name in one official language need not relate to a version of a name in the other official language, and that it is the right of every person to use his or her own name, compiled of any letters or accents in the alphabets of the two official languages, and to have that name recognised in any business he or she is conducting in the State.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

60. In page 8, line 26 to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Bríd Smith, Gary Gannon, Catherine

Connolly.

61. In page 8, to delete lines 29 to 37 and substitute the following:

“(3) Every public body that is prescribed under subsection (1) shall ensure that the information and communications systems, and any other systems (whether electronic or otherwise), that are used by the body in its communications with the general public, or a class of the general public, as may be appropriate, are configured in a manner that permits a person’s name (including the patronymic or matronymic form of the name and the acute accent on vowels in the Irish language), address (including the acute accent on vowels in the Irish language) or title (including the acute accent on vowels in the Irish language), in the Irish language, to be correctly recorded and used by such systems in relation to the services offered or provided by the body not later than 31 December 2025.”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

62. In page 8, to delete “name” on line 34, down to including “language” on line 35 and substitute the following:

“name (including the patronymic or matronymic form of the name, local name, and accents on vowels in the Irish language) address (including accents on vowels in the Irish language) or title (including accents on vowels in the Irish language) in the Irish language”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

63. In page 8, line 35, to delete “name), address or title” and substitute the following:

“name and the length accent on a vowel in the Irish language), address (which includes the length accent on a vowel in the Irish language) or title (which includes the length accent on a vowel in the Irish language),”.

—Gary Gannon.

64. In page 8, line 37, to delete “in respect of which it is so prescribed”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

65. In page 8, line 37 after “prescribed”, to insert “, no later than 31 December 2025”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

66. In page 8, line 38 to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

67. In page 8, line 38 after “consultation”, to insert “with the Advisory Committee, with the Language Commissioner, and”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 4]

68. In page 8, line 40 after “guidelines” where it first occurs, to insert “within 3 months of the enactment of this section”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

69. In page 10, line 3, to delete “A public body shall have regard to” and substitute “Each public body shall comply with”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

70. In page 10, line 6, to delete “as soon as practicable” and substitute “on the date on which they are enacted”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

71. In page 10, line 7, to delete “Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht” and substitute “Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

72. In page 10, line 9 after “Minister”, to insert “, after consulting with the Advisory Committee and with the Language Commissioner,”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

73. In page 10, to delete lines 14 to 41 and in page 12, to delete lines 1 to 5 and substitute the following:

“9B. (1) Any official form made by a public body or on its behalf which is to be completed by a person or on his or her behalf, including a legal person not being an emanation of the State, shall be in the Irish language or in the both the Irish and English languages notwithstanding any other enactment. In the case of an official form in both the Irish and English languages—

- (a) the text in the Irish language shall be first,
- (b) the text in the Irish language shall be as prominent, as visible and as legible as the text in the English language, and it shall be in the same font and of the same style and on the same side of the page concerned,
- (c) the lettering of the text in the Irish language shall not be smaller in size than the lettering in the text in the English language,
- (d) the text in the Irish language shall convey the same information as is conveyed by the text in the English language,
- (e) no word of the text in the Irish language shall not be abbreviated unless the word in the text in the English language, which is a translation thereof, is likewise abbreviated, and
- (f) where a placenames order under section 32 is, for the time being, in force, the Irish language version of the word or words specified in the order shall be used in any official form.

[SECTION 4]

- (2) Notwithstanding the generality of this subsection, should a bilingual version of an official form exceed 8 pages, 2 versions of the official form may be provided, one version in the Irish language and one version in the English language, with the same information in each version, both versions being of the same font and style and size without any abbreviation in the Irish text unless the word in the English language text, which is a translation of the Irish language word, is likewise abbreviated, and every person shall have the right to have access as easily to the Irish language version of the official form as he or she would have to that of the English language version and it shall be indicated on the front of every form that a version of the same is available in the other official language by request.
- (3) Every official form to which this subsection relates shall be available online in a downloadable or completable online version.
- (4) This section shall come into effect on 1 January 2025 in respect of official forms online and in print.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

74. In page 10, to delete lines 14 to 41 and in page 12 to delete lines 1 to 5, and substitute the following:

- “9B. (1) Any official form produced by, or on behalf of, a public body to be filled out by, or on behalf of, a person, including a legal person not being an emanation of the State, shall be in the Irish language or in the Irish and English languages notwithstanding any other enactment. In the case of official forms in both the Irish and English languages—
- (a) the text in the Irish language shall appear first,
 - (b) the text in the Irish language shall be as prominent as or more prominent than, as visible as or more visible than and as legible as or more legible than the text in the English language, and it shall be in the same font, typeface and style and on the same side of the page concerned,
 - (c) the lettering of the text in the Irish language shall not be smaller in size than the lettering of the text in the English language,
 - (d) the text in the Irish language shall communicate the same information as is communicated by the text in the English language,
 - (e) a word in the text in the Irish language shall not be abbreviated unless the word in the text in the English language, of which it is the translation, is also abbreviated, and
 - (f) where a placenames order under section 32 is, for the time being, in force, the Irish language version of the word or words specified in the order shall be used in any official form.

[SECTION 4]

- (2) Notwithstanding the generality of this section, where a bilingual version of an official form would run to over 8 pages, two versions of the same official form may be produced, one in the Irish language and one in the English language, both containing the same information, both versions being of the same appearance and style. The text in the Irish language shall be as large as the text in the English language without abbreviation in the Irish text unless the word in the text in English language, of which it is the translation is also abbreviated. Every person shall have the right to access the Irish language version of the official form as easily as the English language version and it shall be communicated on the face of each such form that a version thereof is available in the other official language by request.
- (3) All official forms to which this section relates shall be available online in downloadable form or capable of being completed online.
- (4) This section shall come into operation on 1 January 2024 in respect of online forms and in respect of any form of which 1,000 copies or more are printed annually and this section shall come into operation in respect of all other forms or in respect of any other class of forms for the time being prescribed by the Minister on such day or days as the Minister may prescribe and in any case not later than 31 December 2030.”.

—Brid Smith, Gary Gannon, Catherine Connolly.

75. In page 10, line 15 to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

76. In page 10, line 15 after “consultation”, to insert “with the Advisory Committee, with the Language Commissioner, and”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

77. In page 10, line 19 to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

78. In page 10, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“(2A) In the case of an official form in both the Irish and English languages—

- (a) the text in the Irish language shall be first if both languages are on the same page, or on the front page and on each subsequent right hand side page if it is in booklet form where the Irish language version and the English language version rotate with each other, and
- (b) the text in the Irish language shall be as prominent, as visible and as legible as the text in the English language, and it shall be in the same font, typeface and style and on the same side of the page

[SECTION 4]

concerned.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

79. In page 10, line 25 to delete “have regard” and substitute “adhere”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

80. In page 10, to delete lines 27 and 28 and substitute the following:

“(a) the part of the text in the Irish language coming before the part of the text in English, or on the front page and on every subsequent page on the right hand side if it is in a booklet format where the Irish language version and the English version rotate with each other;”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

81. In page 10, between lines 31 and 32, to insert the following paragraph:

“(ba) the part of the text in the Irish language not being in a smaller font than that part of the text in the English language and it being as prominent, as visible and as legible as that part of the text in the English language;”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

82. In page 10, line 36, after “language” to insert “and to ensure the right not to use any titles”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

83. In page 12, line 3, after “language” to insert “and to ensure the right not to use any title”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

84. In page 12, to delete lines 7 to 10, and substitute the following:

“**9C.** (1) A public body shall, on and from the commencement of this section, and in any case not later than 1 January 2024, where it is renewing or altering its logo, ensure that text that forms part of the new or altered logo shall be in the Irish language or in both the Irish and English languages.”.

—Dara Calleary, Eamon Ó Cuív, Andrias Moynihan, Joe McHugh, Fergus O’Dowd, Marc Ó Cathasaigh.

85. In page 12, line 7, after “section,” to insert “and in any case no later than 1 January 2026,”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

86. In page 12, line 7, after “section,” to insert “and in any case not later than 1 January 2024,”.

—Brid Smith, Gary Gannon, Catherine Connolly.

87. In page 12, line 8, after “text” to insert “, including abbreviations and acronyms,”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 4]

88. In page 12, line 27, after “body” to insert “, other than a body mentioned under paragraph 1(1) of the First Schedule,”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

89. In page 12, line 28, after “section,” to insert “except for those prescribed under paragraph 1(1) of the First Schedule,”.

—Gary Gannon.

90. In page 12, to delete “or” in line 28, down to and including line 29 and substitute “, aside from those mentioned in the First Schedule at paragraph 1(1),”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

91. In page 12, lines 28 and 29, to delete “or in both the Irish and English languages”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

92. In page 12, line 30, after “body” to insert “, other than a body mentioned under paragraph 1(1) of the First Schedule,”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

93. In page 12, line 31, after “section,” to insert “except for those prescribed under paragraph 1(1) of the First Schedule,”.

—Gary Gannon.

94. In page 12, to delete line 32 and substitute “, other than those mentioned in the First Schedule at paragraph 1(1),”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

95. In page 12, line 32, to delete “or in both the Irish and English languages”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

96. In page 12, line 39, to delete “and”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

97. In page 14, line 3, to delete “abbreviated.” and substitute the following:

“abbreviated,

(d) such public body shall only use the Irish language name, or it shall use the Irish language name and the English language name together, throughout all of its documents, its correspondence, its bills and its advertisements, without exception. When the public body uses its name, it shall refer to itself by the Irish language name only, or by its Irish language and English language name together always, and

(e) such public body shall use its Irish language name only, or it shall use its Irish language and English language name together, in its website address, in its email address and in all of its other

electronic addresses.

- (4) Paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (3) shall come into force on 1 January 2026, notwithstanding any other enactment.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

98. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty of public bodies regarding issued documents

9E. (1) Each booklet, bill and other document issued by a public body shall be issued bilingually and have the following layout—

- (a) the Irish language version and the English language version are to be laid out as two parts of the same document, instead of as two separate documents,
 - (b) the Irish language version and the English language version shall be laid out side by side on pages opposite each other in the same document and shall not be laid out on either end of the document;
 - (c) the Irish language text shall be as prominent, as visible and as legible as the English language text and in the same font and of the same style,
 - (d) the lettering in the Irish language version shall not be smaller in size than the lettering in the English language version,
 - (e) regarding the Irish language text, the same information shall be conveyed in it as in the English language text,
 - (f) no word shall be abbreviated in the Irish language text unless the same word in the English language text, which shall be a translation, is likewise abbreviated; and
 - (g) where the Irish language text and the English language text are the same or an Irish language placename and an English language placename are the same, the Irish language version shall suffice.
- (2) The provisions outlined in subsection (1) shall come into effect on 1 January 2026.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

99. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty of public bodies regarding alphanumeric codes

9E. Every Minister and public body shall ensure, in the case of any alphanumeric code which is issued under its control based on words or placenames, including index marks for vehicles and postcodes, that they shall be based on Irish language words and placenames only from 1 January 2026.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 4]

100. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty of public bodies regarding online and interactive services

9E. All information which is provided on the website or on an interactive service of a public body shall be put online in the Irish language or in the Irish language and in the English language simultaneously.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

101. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty regarding health services

9E. The Health Service Executive must ensure the right of all persons to receive health services, including mental health services, in their choice of the official languages. The Minister for Health and the medical education institutions shall, together with Údarás na Gaeltachta, make every effort that services through the Irish language shall be available in Gaeltacht areas before 31 December 2025, and in the remainder of the country before 31 December 2030.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

102. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty with regard to educational services

9E. The Minister for Education and Skills shall ensure that each of the services mentioned in section 7(1)(a) of the Education Act 1998 will be provided through the Irish and English languages on an equal footing.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

103. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty with regard to educational services

9E. The Minister for Education and Skills shall ensure that, by 31 December 2030, every pupil in Irish-medium early years or primary education and, by 31 December 2040, every pupil in early years or primary education shall have the opportunity to avail of early years or primary and post-primary education through the medium of Irish.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Ruairí Ó Murchú.

104. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty with regard to educational services

9E. The Minister for Education and Skills or the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, as appropriate, shall prepare and issue, and he or she shall implement, five year policies on Gaeltacht education and education through Irish outside of Gaeltacht areas each five years from 2022, after making a reasonable effort to consult with the body established under section 31 of the Education Act

1998, patrons, national associations of parents, parents' associations in schools, recognised school management organisations, recognised trade unions and staff associations which are representative of teachers and such other persons who have a particular interest in matters concerning education through Irish or have knowledge with regard to these matters, including people or groups of people who have a particular interest in the education of students who have special educational needs, or who have experience of this type of education, as the Minister considers appropriate, on the provision of education and support services through Irish—

- (a) at least at the levels of—
 - (i) early years,
 - (ii) primary,
 - (iii) post-primary,
 - (iv) third level and further education, and
 - (v) the professional development of teachers for Gaeltacht education and education through Irish,
- and
- (b) for people with disabilities or people who have other special educational needs at every level mentioned in paragraph (a).”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Ruairí Ó Murchú.

105.In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty with regard to educational services

9E. No school or teacher may advise a student not to learn the national language, that he or she would not benefit from it, or that he or she would not be capable of becoming competent in Irish, and every school shall give every reasonable support to every student to learn Irish as appropriate.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

106.In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Ensuring services for Irish Language Education and Gaeltacht Education

9E. The Minister for Education and Skills shall, by 31 December 2022, establish the body of persons to which section 31 of the Education Act 1998 applies as a body corporate by order in accordance with section 54 of that Act, which shall be called An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 4]

107. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty with regard to the arts

9E. The Minister shall fulfil his or her duties under section 5 of the Arts Act 2003 by promoting the arts in the two official languages inside and outside the State.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

108. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty with regard to broadcasting

9E. Every sound broadcasting contract agreed by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland in accordance with section 66 of the Broadcasting Act 2009 shall ensure—

- (a) that the contractor shall broadcast at least 10 per cent of the annual number of hours of radio programming through Irish before 31 December 2030; 20 per cent before 31 December 2035; and 30 per cent before 31 December 2040, and
- (b) that the contractor shall broadcast at least 20 per cent of the annual number of hours of radio programmes through Irish before 31 December 2030; 30 per cent before 31 December 2035; and 40 per cent before 31 December 2040, if the contract is in respect of a regional or local area which includes a Gaeltacht area.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

109. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty with regard to broadcasting

9E. (1) Every television programme service contract agreed by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland in accordance with section 70 of the Broadcasting Act, 2009 shall ensure that the contractor shall broadcast at least 10 per cent of the annual number of hours of television programming through Irish before 31 December 2030; 20 per cent before 31 December 2035; and 30 per cent before 31 December 2040.

- (2) RTÉ shall ensure that they broadcast at least 20 per cent of the annual number of hours of television programming through Irish before 31 December 2030; 30 per cent before 31 December 2035; and 40 per cent before 31 December 2040.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

110. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty with regard to broadcasting

9E. With regard to the total daily times for broadcasting advertisements under the control of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland on television programming broadcasting services—

[SECTION 4]

- (a) at least 50 per cent of the advertisements in any hour shall be through Irish by 31 December 2025, and
- (b) of the advertisements broadcast by Teilifís na Gaeilge, 100 per cent shall be through Irish by 31 December 2030.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

111. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Duty with regard to broadcasting

- 9E. The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland shall carry out a survey every year on broadcasting in Irish and English on all of the television and radio stations, and shall prepare a report on the results of that survey and submit that report to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community before the end of the year.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

SECTION 5

112. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Recruitment to An Garda Síochána

5. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new section after section 10:

- “10A. (1) 50 per cent of those who are recruited to An Garda Síochána shall have competence in the Irish language and competence in the English language, including promotion, and this provision shall be in force from 1 January 2030 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (2) 40 per cent of the entire staff of An Garda Síochána shall have competence in the Irish language and competence in the English language, and this provision shall be in force from 1 January 2030.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

113. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Recruitment to the Public Sector

5. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new section after section 10:

- “10A. (1) Every person recruited for a job in a public body situated in the Gaeltacht or for any office, division or department of a public body which is located in the Gaeltacht shall be competent in Irish. This provision shall come into operation on 1 January 2024.
- (2) Every public servant working in the Gaeltacht shall be competent in

[SECTION 5]

Irish and this provision shall have full force from 1 January 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.

- (3) 20 per cent of the total number of public servants recruited to fill a vacancy in public bodies shall be competent in Irish and English, including promotions, and this provision shall apply from 1 January 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (4) Full services in Irish shall be available from local and regional offices situated in the Gaeltacht. Full services in Irish shall be available from local and regional offices which have a Gaeltacht area or an Irish language network in their operational area. This provision shall apply from 1 January 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (5) Full services shall be available in either of the two official languages of the State from every public body and this provision shall apply from 1 January 2026 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (6) Regarding specific grades in the public service and where it has been determined that a panel of two people or less shall be established as a result of a specific competition for a specific job or promotion, the Minister, after consultation with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and with any other Minister or any public body the Minister considers necessary, shall direct the Public Appointments Service or the public body to hold a competition through one of the two official languages. The Minister shall only issue such an order if he or she has been informed in writing by the Public Appointments Service or the public body of the reasons why it is necessary to hold the competition through one of the two official languages of the State. Any order issued by the Minister shall apply to one particular competition and it shall only apply for a year from the date on which it was issued. This provision shall be in force from 1 January 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (7) The provisions and the regulations concerning the 20 per cent system shall apply in every public body from 1 January 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (8) The provisions and the regulations concerning the 20 per cent system shall apply to every recruitment competition and promotion competition, both external and internal, from 1 January 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (9) A bilingual requirement shall apply to any job which provides any service to the public, or to a third party, if the third party is a person, body or organisation of any type, and this provision shall be in force from 1 January 2030 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (10) When a person gets a job or a promotion through the 20 per cent system, it shall be part of his or her contract of employment that he or she shall have a duty to operate in either of the two official languages

[SECTION 5]

of the State as long as he or she stays in that job, or when he or she gets a promotion directly from having that job, and as long as he or she stays in that promoted job. If this person gets another job outside of the 20 per cent system, this person shall not have this duty anymore. This provision shall be in force from 1 January 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.

- (11) It shall be the duty of the public body to provide the necessary training and continuous upskilling in the two official languages of the State to any person who is employed under the 20 per cent system during his or her working life. This provision shall be in force from 1 January 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (12) Every employee of a public body shall have the right to carry out any interaction he or she has with the public body, and which relates to his or her personal employment, through his or her choice of either of both official languages of the State, and it shall be the duty of the public body to ensure that this is possible by having the appropriate facilities and forms available to the employee. This provision shall be in force from 1 January 2021 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (13) Every public body shall appoint a Bilingual Development Officer at assistant principal level or higher, and it shall give the specific powers and tasks to him or her. The Bilingual Development Officer shall ensure that the public body fulfils all of its duties under the Official Language Acts and under the provisions of the sector in which it is. This provision shall be in force from 1 January 2021 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (14) It shall be the duty of every public body to prepare a report and to lay it before the Houses of the Oireachtas every year. The report shall include the following details:
 - (a) a list of the services that the public body provides to the public, and to other third parties, bilingually, through Irish only, and through English only;
 - (b) details regarding the total number of people employed by the public body, details regarding the number of people employed under the 20 per cent system, a list of the number of employees who have a duty to provide a bilingual service to the public or to other third parties;
 - (c) details regarding the number of appointments and promotions done by the public body during the previous year, and details regarding the number of appointments and promotions which it made through the 20 per cent system during the previous year;
 - (d) details regarding the number of times that the public body requested the Public Appointments Service to supply it with a bilingual employee and the number of times the Public

Appointments Service did so;

- (e) a list of the officials (responsibility, name, grade, division and contact details) in the various divisions of the public body who are responsible for providing bilingual services;
 - (f) name, grade, contact details, responsibilities and powers of the Bilingual Development Officer;
 - (g) a list of the complaints made to the public body during the previous year regarding any occasion where it failed or refused to provide a bilingual service when requested to do so, and details of the decision made by the public body and the policies it implemented in order to resolve the problem and to subsequently provide the bilingual service;
 - (h) a list of the initiatives that the public body implemented during the previous year to promote, encourage and support bilingualism.
- (15) The provisions outlined in subsection (14) shall be in force from 1 January 2025, notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (16) The Minister shall establish an advisory group on which there shall be representatives of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the Public Appointments Service, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (or any Department which is responsible for duties regarding the Irish language, the Gaeltacht or the Irish-speaking Community), Office of an Coimisinéir Teanga, and any other public body, as appropriate, in order to advise the Public Appointments Service on recruitment competitions in the context of objectives to increase the number of Irish speakers who can operate bilingually in the public service and to ensure the provision of Irish speakers in offices situated in Gaeltacht areas or which serve Gaeltacht areas. This provision comes into force on and from the date that the *Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021* comes into force, notwithstanding any other enactment.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

114. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Membership of State Boards

5. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new section after section 10:

“10A. When board members are being nominated after the coming into force of this provision, every Minister of Government shall ensure that at least 20 per cent of the members of each State board shall be competent in the Irish language.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 5]

115. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Membership of State Boards

5. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new section after section 10:

“10A. When members of the Arts Council are being nominated in accordance with section 11 of the Arts Act 2003, after the coming into force of this provision, at least 6 of them shall be sufficiently competent in Irish to be able to make use of it without difficulty during their work.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

116. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“Membership of State Boards

5. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new section after section 10:

“10A. When members of the board of RTÉ are being nominated in accordance with section 82 of the Broadcasting Act 2009, after the coming into force of this provision, at least one out of every two members must be able to communicate competently in Irish.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

117. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

- “5.** The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 10:

“Recruitment to the Public Sector

10A. (1) Every person recruited for a position in a public body situated in the Gaeltacht, or for any office, section, division or department of a public body located in the Gaeltacht shall be fluent in the Irish and English languages. This provision shall come into operation on 31 December 2022 notwithstanding any other enactment.

(2) Every public servant working in the Gaeltacht shall be fluent in the Irish and English languages and this provision shall apply in full from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.

(3) 20 per cent of people recruited for a position in every public body shall be fluent in the Irish and English languages and this provision shall come into operation from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.

(4) 20 per cent of public servants working in each public body shall be fluent in the Irish and English languages and this provision shall apply in full from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.

(5) Services shall be fully available in either of the two official languages

[SECTION 5]

of the State from local and regional offices situated in the Gaeltacht, and this provision shall apply from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.

- (6) Services shall be fully available in either of the two official languages of the State from local and regional offices which have a Gaeltacht area or an Irish Language Network in their operational area and this provision shall apply from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (7) Services shall be fully available in either of the two official languages of the State from every public body and this provision shall apply from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (8) As regards certain grades in the public service and where it has been determined that a panel of two people or less shall be established as a result of a particular competition for a particular position or promotion, the Minister, after consultation with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and with any other Minister or with the head of a public body the Minister considers necessary, shall order the Public Appointments Service or the public body to hold a competition through the medium of one of the two official languages. The Minister shall only issue such an order if he or she has been notified in writing by the Public Appointments Service or the public body of the reasons justifying holding the competition through the medium of one of the two official languages of the State. On issuing such an order, the Minister shall make his or her determination and shall communicate the basis of such a determination to the Commissioner. Any order issued by the Minister shall apply to a particular competition and it shall only apply for a year from the date on which it was issued. This provision shall be in operation from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (9) The provisions and regulations relating to the 20 per cent system shall apply to every public body from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (10) The provisions and regulations relating to the 20 per cent system shall apply to every recruitment competition and promotion competition, both external and internal, from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactments.
- (11) A bilingual requirement shall apply to any position which provides any service to the public, or to a third party, if the third party is a person, body or organisation of any type, and this provision shall apply from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (12) Where a person gets a position or a promotion through the 20 per cent system, it shall be part of his or her contract of employment that he or she shall have a duty to operate in either of the two official languages

[SECTION 5]

of the State as long as he or she remains in that position, or where he or she gets a promotion directly from having that position, as long as he or she remains in that promoted position. If such a person gets another position outside of the 20 per cent system, that duty shall no longer apply to that person. This provision shall apply from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.

- (13) It shall be the duty of the public body to provide the necessary training and continuous upskilling in the two official languages of the State to any person employed under the 20 per cent system during his or her working life. This provision shall apply from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (14) Every employee of a public body shall have the right to have any interactions he or she has with the public body, and which relate to his or her personal employment, through either of the two official languages of the State, and it shall be the duty of the public body to so facilitate by having the appropriate facilities and forms available to the employee. This provision shall apply from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (15) Every public body shall appoint a Bilingual Development Officer at Assistant Principal level or higher, and it shall assign specific powers and responsibilities to him or her. The Bilingual Development Officer shall ensure that the public body fulfils all of its duties under the Official Language Acts and under the provisions set out for the sector concerned. This provision shall apply from 31 December 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (16) It shall be the duty of every public body to prepare a report and to lay it before the Houses of the Oireachtas every year. The report shall include the following details:
 - (a) a list of the services the public body provides to the public, and to other third parties, bilingually, through the Irish language only, and through the English language only;
 - (b) details regarding the total number of people employed by the public body, details regarding the number of people employed under the 20 per cent system, a list of the number of employees who have a duty to provide a bilingual service to the public or to other third parties;
 - (c) details regarding the number of appointments and promotions made by the public body during the previous year, and details regarding the number of appointments and promotions made through the 20 per cent system during the previous year;
 - (d) details regarding the number of times the public body requested the Public Appointments Service to supply it with a bilingual employee and the number of times the Public Appointments Service did so;

[SECTION 5]

- (e) a list of the officials (responsibility, name, grade, division and contact details) in the various sections of the public body responsible for providing bilingual services;
 - (f) name, grade, contact details, tasks and powers of the Bilingual Development Officer;
 - (g) a list of the complaints made to the public body during the previous year regarding any occasion where it failed or refused to provide a bilingual service when requested to do so, and details regarding the decision made by the public body and the policies implemented by it in order to resolve the problem and to subsequently provide the bilingual service;
 - (h) a list of the initiatives the public body implemented during the previous year to promote and encourage bilingualism and to support it. This provision shall apply from 31 December 2022 notwithstanding any other enactment.
- (17) The Minister shall establish an advisory group and shall consist of representatives of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the Public Appointments Service, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, Oifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, and any other public body, as appropriate, to advise the Public Appointments Service on recruitment competitions in the context of objectives to ensure an increase in the number of Irish speakers who can operate bilingually in the public service and the provision of Irish speakers in offices situated in Gaeltacht areas or which serve Gaeltacht areas. This provision comes into operation on and from the date that the *Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021* comes into operation, notwithstanding any other enactment.”.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

118. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“5. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 11:

“Standard

- 11A.** (1) Every public body shall be classified into one of three categories. A third party, an individual or a body that provides services on behalf of a public body shall be classified in the same category in which the public body, on whose behalf he or she or it provides such services, is classified. Where a third party provides services on behalf of more than one public body, that third party shall undergo separate classification in respect of the services it provides on behalf of each of the different public bodies.
- (2) The three categories are Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3. Public bodies and third parties providing any services on behalf of any public body that are classified in Category 1 shall comply with the

[SECTION 5]

highest standard for the provision of public services through the medium of both official languages. Public bodies and third parties providing any services on behalf of any public body that are classified in Category 2 shall comply with a lower standard for the provision of public services through the medium of both official languages. Public bodies and third parties providing any services on behalf of any public body that are classified in Category 3 shall comply with the minimum standard for the provision of public services through the medium of both official languages.

- (3) A public body that is classified in Category 1 shall provide all services in both official languages. Such services provided by the public body shall be equivalent in terms of standard, accessibility, quality and timeliness, regardless of the official language through the medium of which it provides a service. Third parties providing services on behalf of the public body shall provide such services in accordance with the same standards.
- (4) A public body that is classified in Category 2 shall provide an agreed number of services through the medium of both official languages. It shall provide such services in accordance with agreed standards of accessibility, quality and timeliness. Third parties providing services on behalf of the public body shall provide such services in accordance with the same standards.
- (5) A public body that is classified in Category 3 shall provide an agreed number of services through the medium of both official languages. It shall provide such services in accordance with agreed standards of accessibility, quality and timeliness. Third parties providing services on behalf of the public body shall provide such services in accordance with the same standards.
- (6) The Commissioner shall set the overall standards for each of the three categories. He or she shall assign each public body to a particular category following consultation with the public body. With respect to Category 2 and Category 3, the Commissioner shall have the power to agree a change in the standards to be applied to various public bodies within the overall limits set for each of these categories.
- (7) A public body or third party providing any services on behalf of any public body that is classified in Category 2 or Category 3 may not remain in this category for longer than 5 years. All public bodies and third parties providing any services on behalf of any public body shall transfer after 5 years to a higher category, achieving Category 1 classification within 10 years.
- (8) The Commissioner shall monitor the performance of all public bodies and third parties providing any services on behalf of any public body in accordance with the standards for the category in which that public body or third party is classified.

[SECTION 5]

- (9) Where a public body or a third party providing any services on behalf of any public body fails to comply with the standards set for the category in which it is classified, the Commissioner may impose a penalty not exceeding €5,000. This penalty shall only be imposed once in any 5-year period. The Commissioner shall not do so until he or she has made a full report on the provision of services by the public body or third party. The public body or third party shall have the right to appeal against the imposition of the penalty within 30 days of the report being published, and the Commissioner shall hear and determine that appeal within 30 days of its submission to him or her. The Commissioner shall lay the report before both Houses of the Oireachtas within 40 days after publication or, if the public body or third party providing any services on behalf of any public body appeals against the imposition of the penalty, within 10 days after he or she publishes the determination of the appeal.
- (10) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (6) above, the Commissioner shall have the power to reclassify a public body or a third party that provides any services on behalf of any public body into a lower category than the category in which it is classified at any particular time. The Commissioner shall not do so until he or she has made a full report on the provision of services by the public body or third party. Where the Commissioner has prepared such a report, he or she may impose a penalty not exceeding €5,000 on the public body or third party. This penalty shall only be imposed once in any 5-year period. The public body or third party shall have the right to appeal against the imposition of the penalty within 30 days of the report being published, and the Commissioner shall hear and determine that appeal within 30 days of its submission to him or her. The Commissioner shall lay the report before both Houses of the Oireachtas within 40 days after publication or, if the public body or third party appeals against the imposition of the penalty, within 10 days after publishing the determination of the appeal.
- (11) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (6) above, the Commissioner shall have the power to allow a public body or third party providing any services on behalf of any public body to remain in the same category for a further period of 5 years. The Commissioner shall not do so until he or she has made a full report on the provision of services by the public body or third party. Where the Commissioner has prepared such a report, he or she may impose a penalty not exceeding €10,000 on the public body or third party. The public body or third party shall have the right to appeal against the imposition of the penalty within 30 days of the report being published, and the Commissioner shall hear and determine that appeal within 30 days of its submission to him or her. The Commissioner shall lay the report before both Houses of the Oireachtas within 40 days after he or she publishes it or, if the public body or third party appeals against the

[SECTION 5]

imposition of the penalty, within 10 days after publishing the determination of the appeal.

- (12) The Commissioner shall have the following responsibilities:
- (a) setting the standard of service in each category;
 - (b) regularly reviewing the performance of each public body in each category, and if a public body fails to meet that standard, reporting thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas;
 - (c) supporting and encouraging public bodies as they move towards Category 1 status within a maximum of 10 years.
- (13) These provisions shall come into operation on 1 January 2022 notwithstanding any other enactment.”.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

119. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“**5.** The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following after section 11:

“Public Bodies

11A. Subject to this section, each of the following shall be a public body for the purposes of this Act:

- (a) a Department of State;
- (b) any other entity established by or under any enactment (other than the Companies Acts);
- (c) any other entity established (other than under the Companies Acts) or appointed by the Government or a Minister of the Government, including an entity established (other than under the Companies Acts) by a Minister of the Government under any scheme;
- (d) a company (within the meaning of the Companies Acts) a majority of the shares in which are held by or on behalf of a Minister of the Government;
- (e) a subsidiary (within the meaning of the Companies Acts) of a company to which paragraph (d) relates;
- (f) an entity (other than a subsidiary to which paragraph (e) relates) that is directly or indirectly controlled by an entity to which paragraphs (b), (c), (d) or (e) relate.”.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

120. In page 14, between lines 3 and 4, to insert the following:

“**5.** Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (2):

“(2A) Any individual operating, pursuant to a contract or otherwise, as an

[SECTION 5]

agent on behalf of a public body performing the functions of that public body, to the extent only that it relates to the performance of those particular functions.”.”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

121.In page 15, line 7, to delete “caighdeán teanga forordaithe, is caighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú teanga forordaithe, is aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

122.In page 14, line 10, after “force.” to insert the following:

“However, a prescribed language standard shall not reduce the duties which applied to a public body under a scheme up to that time.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

SECTION 6

123.In page 14, lines 15 and 16, to delete “for the purposes of this Act” and substitute the following:

“for the purposes of this Act, and the establishment day shall be a day that is not later than 6 months after the passing of the *Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021*”.

—An tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

124.In page 14, line 14, after “day” where it firstly occurs, to insert “within 3 months from the enactment of this section”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

125.In page 14, between lines 21 and 22 to insert the following:

“(3A) The Committee shall be independent in the performance of its functions.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

126.In page 14, between lines 21 and 22 to insert the following:

“(3A) The working language of the Committee shall be Irish.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

127.In page 14, line 32, after “Minister” to insert “in accordance with the process of the Public Appointments Service”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

128.In page 14, to delete lines 33 and 34 and substitute the following:

“(2) The Minister shall ensure that the person appointed as independent Chairperson is one who is competent in Irish and has particular experience and expertise regarding the provision of or the demand for services through the medium of Irish, language planning, change

[SECTION 6]

management, public administration or research and that the person appointed is not employed by a public body falling within paragraph 1 (1) of the First Schedule in the performance of his or her duties as Chairperson.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

129. In page 14, to delete lines 33 and 34 and to substitute the following:

“(2) The Minister will ensure that a person with good Irish and a good understanding of the language situation will be appointed as independent Chairperson and that person will not be employed in a public body under paragraph 1(1) of the First Schedule.”.

—Bríd Smith, Gary Gannon.

130. In page 14, line 33, after “Committee” to insert “, who is fluent in the Irish language,”.

—Catherine Connolly.

131. In page 14, line 34, after “as” to insert “an independent”.

—Catherine Connolly.

132. In page 14, line 37, to delete “Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht” and substitute the following:

“Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media or any Department which has responsibility for the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht or the Irish-speaking Community”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

133. In page 16, between lines 5 and 6, to insert the following:

“(ca) one member nominated by Foras na Gaeilge as a representative of Foras na Gaeilge,”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

134. In page 16, between lines 5 and 6, to insert the following:

“(ca) one member nominated by Údarás na Gaeltachta as a representative of Údarás na Gaeltachta,”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

135. In page 16, line 6, to delete “7 other members” and substitute “2 other members”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

136. In page 16, line 8, to delete “and”.

—Gary Gannon, Dara Calleary, Eamon Ó Cuív, Andrias Moynihan, Joe McHugh, Fergus O’Dowd, Marc Ó Cathasaigh.

137. In page 16, to delete lines 9 and 10 and substitute the following:

“(e) at least 4 members as representatives of the Irish-speaking

[SECTION 6]

community, including the Gaeltacht community, the Irish-speaking community outside of the Gaeltacht, voluntary Irish-language organisations and providers of Irish-language and Gaeltacht education.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

138.In page 16, lines 9 and 10, to delete “of a Gaeltacht area.” and substitute the following:

“of the Gaeltacht community, and

- (f) one member nominated by the Minister as a representative of the Irish language community outside the Gaeltacht.”.

—Brid Smith.

139.In page 16, line 9 to delete “of” and substitute “from”.

—Gary Gannon.

140.In page 16, line 10 to delete “Gaeltacht area.” and substitute the following:

“Gaeltacht area, and

- (f) one member nominated by the Minister to be a representative of the Irish language community outside the Gaeltacht.”.

—Gary Gannon, Dara Calleary, Eamon Ó Cuív, Andrias Moynihan, Joe McHugh, Fergus O’Dowd, Marc Ó Cathasaigh.

141.In page 16, lines 9 and 10, to delete “a Gaeltacht area.” and substitute “the Gaeltacht community, and”.

—Catherine Connolly.

142.In page 16, between lines 10 and 11, to insert the following paragraphs:

- “(f) one member nominated by the Minister as a representative of the Irish language community outside the Gaeltacht, and
- (g) an expert in linguistics.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

143.In page 16, between lines 10 and 11, to insert the following:

“(3A) When appointing members of the Advisory Committee, the Minister shall ensure that—

- (a) they have particular experience and expertise regarding the provision of or the demand for services through the medium of Irish, language planning, change management, public administration or research, and
- (b) there is an appropriate balance between men and woman in the membership of the Committee.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 6]

144. In page 16, line 19, to delete “6 years” and substitute “5 years”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

145. In page 16, line 22, to delete “by the effluxion of time”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

146. In page 16, line 26, to delete “6 years” and substitute “5 years”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

147. In page 16, to delete lines 39 to 41 and in page 18 to delete lines 1 to 6.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

148. In page 18, line 7, to delete “The Minister” and substitute “The Committee itself”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

149. In page 18, line 11, to delete “as soon as may be” and substitute “as soon as may be but not later than 2 years”.

—An tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

150. In page 18, line 11, after “day” to insert “, and in any case no later than a year after the establishment of the Advisory Council,”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

151. In page 18, line 15, to delete “6 years” and substitute “5 years”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

152. In page 19, line 23, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

153. In page 18, line 22, to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

154. In page 18, line 26, after “advise” to insert “and provide deadlines and specific recommendations to”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

155. In page 18, to delete from “services” in line 26, down to and including “provided” on line 28 and substitute the following:

“their Constitutional and statutory responsibilities regarding services may be discharged through the medium of Irish”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 6]

156.In page 18, line 32, to delete “recommendations” and substitute “having regard to the objective referred to in subsection (3)(b), recommendations”.

—An tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

157.In page 20, line 12, to delete “have regard to” and substitute “ensure the”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

158.In page 20, line 12, to delete “regard to”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Bríd Smith, Gary Gannon, Catherine Connolly.

159.In page 20, between lines 12 and 13 to insert the following:

“(a) that every service provided by public bodies be provided through the medium of Irish in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas by 31 December 2025 or, if the Advisory Council grants emergency permission to a particular public body, not later than 31 December 2030.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

160.In page 20, line 13 to delete “(a) increasing” and substitute “(b) increasing”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

161.In page 20, to delete lines 13 to 20 and substitute the following:

- “(a) having services provided by public bodies in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas available through the medium of the Irish language by 31 December 2030,
- (b) increasing the number of services provided by public bodies through the medium of the Irish language, having particular regard to services provided by public bodies in Gaeltacht Service Towns and Irish Language Networks, and
- (c) increasing the number of staff of public bodies who are competent in the Irish language so that, by 31 December 2030 at least 20 per cent of the staff recruited to public bodies are so competent.”.

—Bríd Smith.

162.In page 20, to delete lines 13 to 20 and substitute the following:

- “(a) having services provided by public bodies in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas available through the medium of the Irish language by 31 December 2025,
- (b) increasing the number of services provided by public bodies through the medium of the Irish language, having particular regard to services provided by public bodies in Gaeltacht Service Towns and Irish Language Networks, and

[SECTION 6]

- (c) increasing the number of staff of public bodies who are competent in the Irish language so that, by 31 December 2025, at least 20 per cent of the staff recruited to public bodies are so competent.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

163.In page 20, line 16, to delete “and” where it secondly occurs and substitute the following:

- “(aa) increasing the number of staff of public bodies who are competent in the Irish language so that—
 - (i) by 31 December 2030, at least 10 per cent of the staff of public bodies are so competent,
 - (ii) by 31 December 2040, at least 20 per cent of the staff of public bodies are so competent,
 - (iii) by 31 December 2050, at least 30 per cent of the staff of public bodies are so competent,and”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

164.In page 20, line 16, to delete “and” where it secondly occurs.

—Gary Gannon.

165.In page 20, line 17 to delete “(b) increasing” and substitute “(c) increasing”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

166.In page 20, to delete lines 17 to 20 and substitute the following:

- “(b) increasing the number of staff of public bodies who are competent in the Irish language so that—
 - (i) by 31 December 2025, at least 20 per cent of staff recruited to public bodies are so competent,
 - (ii) by 31 December 2030, at least 30 per cent of staff recruited to public bodies are so competent,
 - (iii) by 31 December 2035, at least 40 per cent of staff recruited to public bodies are so competent,
 - (iv) by 31 December 2040, at least 50 per cent of staff recruited to public bodies are so competent.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

167.In page 20, lines 18 and 19, to delete “as soon as practicable after the establishment day” and substitute “by 31 December 2025”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 6]

168. In page 20, lines 18 and 19, to delete “as soon as is practicable after the establishment day” and substitute “by 31 December 2030”.

—Gary Gannon.

169. In page 20, line 20, to delete “competent.” and substitute the following:

“competent, and

- (c) all services provided by public bodies in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas will be available through the medium of Irish by 31 December 2030.”.

—Gary Gannon.

170. In page 20, between lines 22 and 23, to insert the following:

“(5) The Advisory Council shall make a survey on Irish competency in the civil service every five years from the establishment of the Committee, and submit the results of the survey to the Minister and to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community, and they shall investigate the following:

- (a) the number of civil servants who are competent in Irish;
- (b) the standard of competence among civil servants who are competent in Irish;
- (c) the number of civil servants who speak Irish in the workplace;
- (d) the standard of Irish in use in the workplace;
- (e) the services available to the community through Irish; and
- (f) the standard of Irish in those services being provided in Irish.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

171. In page 20, line 24, to delete “18D. The Minister” and substitute “18D. (1) The Minister”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

172. In page 20, line 25, to delete “3 months” and substitute “one month”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

173. In page 20, line 30, after “operation” to insert “and in any case not later than two months from the Minister’s approval”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

174. In page 20, line 35, after “Oireachtas” to insert “and the Joint Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community of the Houses of the Oireachtas”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 6]

175. In page 20, line 37, to delete “Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht” and substitute “Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media or such Department as has responsibility for pertaining to the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht or the Irish-speaking Community”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

176. In page 20, between lines 37 and 38, to insert the following:

“(2) The senior Minister shall be responsible for implementing the National Plan.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

177. In page 20, between lines 37 and 38, to insert the following:

“(2) The National Plan shall have statutory force as soon as it is in operation, and every public body shall comply with its proposals.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

178. In page 20, between lines 37 and 38, to insert the following:

“18DA. The senior Minister with responsibility for the Gaeltacht shall be responsible for the implementation of the National Plan.”.

—Brid Smith, Gary Gannon, Catherine Connolly.

179. In page 20, between lines 37 and 38, to insert the following:

“18DA. The Minister shall be responsible for the implementation of the National Plan.”.

—Dara Calleary, Eamon Ó Cuív, Andrias Moynihan, Joe McHugh, Fergus O’Dowd, Marc Ó Cathasaigh.

180. In page 22, line 1, to delete “each 2 year period” and substitute “each year”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

181. In page 22, to delete line 3 and substitute “two years preceding the first report and during every subsequent year.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

182. In page 22, line 17, after “Oireachtas” to insert “and the Joint Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community of the Houses of the Oireachtas”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

183. In page 22, line 19, to delete “Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht” and substitute “Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media or such Department as has responsibility for duties pertaining to the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht or the Irish-speaking Community”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

184. In page 22, line 19, to delete “Gaeltacht.” and substitute “Gaeltacht.”.

—An tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus

185. In page 22, between lines 19 and 20, to insert the following:

“Staff of public bodies

18F. (1) The Advisory Committee shall, not later than 31 December 2030, furnish to the Minister information relating to the percentage of staff recruited to public bodies, as and from the date of the passing of the *Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021*, who are competent in the Irish language.

(2) Where, on receipt of information furnished by the Advisory Committee in accordance with subsection (1), the Minister is satisfied that the objective referred to in section 18C(3)(b) has not been achieved, the Minister shall, not later than 1 July 2031, with the consent of the Taoiseach and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, make an order specifying the date by which that objective is to be achieved.

(3) When making an order under subsection (2), the Minister shall have regard to the following matters:

- (a) progress made pursuant to the National Plan;
- (b) the percentage of staff of public bodies who are competent in the Irish language;
- (c) any existing selection panels, established by the Public Appointments Service or any other public body to fill vacancies in a public body, that are comprised of, or including, persons who are competent in the Irish language;
- (d) trends in the number of applications, for work in public bodies, from persons who are competent in the Irish language;
- (e) trends in the numbers of students undertaking primary education or post-primary education through the medium of Irish;
- (f) the percentage of the population, as ascertained by the Central Statistics Office in the most recent census report published by that office, who speak Irish on a daily basis;
- (g) such other matter as the Minister considers appropriate.

(4) Before making the Order under subsection (2) the Minister shall consult with, and have regard to the views of—

- (a) the Commissioner,
- (b) the Advisory Committee, and
- (c) such other person as the Minister considers appropriate.

(5) An order made under subsection (2) shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas as soon as may be after it is made and, if a resolution

[SECTION 6]

annulling the order is passed by either such House within the next 21 days on which that House sits after the order is laid before it, the order shall be annulled accordingly, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.”.

—An tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

SECTION 7

186. In page 23, line 24, to delete “Caighdeáin” and substitute “Aicmithe”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

187. In page 22 to delete lines 22 to 37, to delete pages 24 and 26 and in page 28, to delete lines 1 to 3 and substitute the following:

“Introduction of standards

19A. (1) Each public body shall be classified into one of three sectors. A third party, individual or body providing services on behalf of a public body shall be classified in the same sector as the public body for which it, or he or she, provides those services. Where a third party provides services on behalf of more than one public body, that third party shall be classified apart in respect of the services it provides for each of the different public bodies.

(2) The three sectors shall be Sector 1, Sector 2, and Sector 3. Public bodies and third parties which provide any services on behalf of any public body classified in Sector 1 shall supply the highest standard with regard to the provision of public services in the two official languages of the State. Public bodies and third parties which provide any services on behalf of any public body classified in Sector 2 shall supply a lower standard with regard to the provision of public services in the two official languages of the State. Public bodies and third parties which provide any services on behalf of any public body classified in Sector 3 shall supply the lowest standard with regard to the provision of public services in the two official languages of the State.

(3) A public body classified in Sector 1 shall provide all of the services it provides in the two official languages of the State. It shall provide those services at the same level with regard to standard, accessibility, quality and timeliness, irrespective of the official language in which it is providing a service. Third parties which provide services on behalf of the public body shall provide those services in accordance with the same standards.

(4) A public body classified in Sector 2 shall provide an agreed number of services in the two official languages of the State. It shall provide these services in accordance with an agreed standard, with regard to accessibility, quality and timeliness. Third parties which provide services on behalf of the public body shall provide those services in

accordance with the same standards.

- (5) A public body classified in Sector 3 shall provide an agreed number of serviced in the two official languages of the State. It shall provide those services in accordance with agreed standards, with regard to accessibility, quality and timeliness. Third parties which provide services on behalf of the public body shall provide those services in accordance with the same standards.
- (6) The Language Commissioner shall set the overall standards respecting each one of the three sectors. He or she shall assign each public body to a particular sector having consulted with the public body. With regard to Sector 2 and Sector 3, the Language Commissioner shall have the power to agree to a change in the standards to be applied regarding different public bodies within the overall limits set for each of those sectors.
- (7) None of the public bodies and third parties which provide any services on behalf of any public body classified in Sector 2 or Sector 3 shall remain in that Sector for longer than 5 years. Each public body and each third party which provides any services on behalf of any third party shall be transferred to a higher sector after 5 years so that it is classified in Sector 1 within 10 years.
- (8) The Language Commissioner shall monitor the performance of each public body and third party providing any services on behalf of any public body in accordance with the standards for the Sector in which that public body or third party is classified.
- (9) Where a public body or third party which provides any services on behalf of any public body fails to comply with the standards set for the sector in which it is classified, the Language Commissioner may impose a penalty up to €15,000. This penalty shall be imposed once only in any particular 5 year period. He or she shall not do so until the Commissioner has made a complete report on the provision of services by the public body or third party. The public body or third party shall have the right to appeal the imposition of a penalty within 30 days of the publication of the report, and the Language Commissioner shall hear that appeal and give a ruling on it within 30 days of the appeal being submitted to him or her. The Language Commissioner shall submit the report to both Houses of the Oireachtas within 40 days of publishing it or, if the public body or third party which provides any services on behalf of a public body appeals the imposition of a penalty, within 10 days of publishing the decision on the appeal.
- (10) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (6) above, the Language Commissioner shall have the power to reclassify a public body or a third party which provides any services on behalf of a public body in a lower sector than the sector in which it is classified at any particular time. He or she shall not do so until he or she has made a complete

report on the provision of services by the public body or third party. Where he or she has prepared such a report, he or she may impose a penalty up to €15,000 on the public body or third party. Such penalty shall be imposed once only in any particular 5 year period. The public body or third party shall have the right to appeal the imposition of a penalty within 30 days from the publication of the report, and the Language Commissioner shall hear such appeal and give a ruling on it within 30 days of its being submitted to him or her. The Language Commissioner shall submit the report to both Houses of the Oireachtas within 40 days of publishing it or, if the public body or the third party which provides any services on behalf of any public body appeals the imposition of a penalty, within 10 days of publishing the decision on the appeal.

- (11) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (6) above, the Language Commissioner shall have power to permit a public body or third party which provides any services on behalf of any public body to remain in the same sector for a further period of 5 years. He or she shall not do so until he or she has made a complete report on the provision of services by the public body or third party. Where he or she has prepared such a report, he or she may impose a penalty of up to €30,000 on the public body or third party. The public body or third party shall have the right to appeal the imposition of a penalty within 30 days of the publication of the report, and the Language Commissioner shall hear such appeal and give a ruling on it within 30 days of it being submitted to him or her. The Language Commissioner shall submit the report to both Houses of the Oireachtas within 40 days of publishing it or, if the public body or third party appeals the imposition of a penalty, within 10 days of the date of the publication by him or her of the decision on the appeal.
- (12) Any moneys received by the imposition of penalties in accordance with subsections (9), (10) and (11) shall be retained by the Language Commissioner in the Irish Language Fund at his or her disposal.
- (13) When the Fund reaches the value of €100,000, he or she may distribute the money as a grant to a particular project to promote the Irish language from amongst applications received from the public.
- (14) A value of €100,000 having been achieved by the Fund and distributed in grants to the public, the Commissioner shall begin again to collect any moneys received by the imposition of penalties in accordance with subsections (9), (10) and (11).
- (15) The Language Commissioner shall have the following responsibilities:
 - (a) to set the standard of service in each Sector;
 - (b) to review the performance of each public body in each category on a regular basis, and where a public body fails to achieve this

[SECTION 7]

standard, to submit a report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas;

(c) to support and encourage public bodies seeking to achieve Sector 1 status within 10 years at the most.

(16) These provisions shall come into effect on 1 January 2025 notwithstanding any other enactment.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

188.In page 23, line 25, to delete “caighdeáin teanga a fhorordú, is caighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe teanga a fhorordú, is aicmithe”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

189.In page 22, line 24, after “bodies” to insert to following:

“or any third party supplying any services on behalf of any public body in the same class into which such public body is placed, insofar as it applies to those services”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

190.In page 22, line 25, to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

191.In page 22, lines 25 to 28, to delete from “, with the” on line 25, down to and including “vested,” on line 28.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

192.In page 22, line 25, after “may” to insert “, following consultation with the Advisory Committee,”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

193.In page 22, line 30, to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Catherine Connolly.

194.In page 23, line 33, to delete “caighdeáin teanga a fhorordú, is caighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe teanga a fhorordú, is aicmithe”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

195.In page 22, line 32, to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

196.In page 23, line 36, to delete “caighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

197.In page 23, line 38, to delete “caighdeáin” and substitute “haicmithe”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 7]

198.In page 22, lines 34 and 35, to delete “may include standards specifying” and substitute “shall specify”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

199.In page 22, line 34, to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Brid Smith, Gary Gannon, Catherine Connolly.

200.In page 24, line 20, to delete “and”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Gary Gannon.

201.In page 24, line 21, after “timescale” to insert “, with a deadline not later than 31 December 2025,”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

202.In page 24, line 23, to delete “bodies.” and substitute the following:

“bodies, and

- (f) a timescale within which the information and communication systems, and any other systems (whether electronic or otherwise), the body uses in its communications with the general public, or with a class of the general public, as appropriate, shall be configured in a way that those systems can record and use correctly a person’s name (including the patronymic or matronymic form of the name, local name, and accents over vowels in the Irish language), address (including accents over vowels in Irish) or title (including accents over vowels in the Irish language and the right not to use a title) in the Irish language in relation to the services which the body offers or provides.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

203.In page 24, line 23, to delete “bodies.” and substitute the following:

“bodies, and

- (f) services to be provided, through both the Irish and English languages, by the public body to employees of public bodies when dealing with their employer in the course of their employment.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

204.In page 24, line 23, to delete “bodies.” and substitute the following:

“bodies, and

- (f) a definition of positions for which there is an insufficient number of persons with Irish who are qualified to fill them, and a plan to resolve this problem by developing education and training at third level and further education for those positions.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 7]

205.In page 24, line 23, to delete “bodies.” and substitute the following:

“bodies, and

- (f) a timescale within which the information and communications systems, and any other systems (whether electronic or otherwise), that are used by the body in its communications with the general public, or a class of the general public, as may be appropriate, are configured in a manner that permits a person’s name (including the patronymic or matronymic form of the name and the acute accent on vowels in the Irish language), address (including the acute accent on vowels in the Irish language) or title (including the acute accent on vowels in the Irish language), in the Irish language, to be correctly recorded and used by such systems in relation to the services offered or provided by the body which will enable the Irish language to become the working language in such offices.”.

—Brid Smith, Gary Gannon, Catherine Connolly.

206.In page 24, line 23, to delete “bodies.” and substitute the following:

“bodies, and

- (f) services to be provided, through both the Irish and English languages, by the public body to employees of public bodies when dealing with their employer in the course of their employment.”.

—Brid Smith, Gary Gannon, Catherine Connolly.

207.In page 24, line 23, to delete “bodies.” and substitute the following:

“bodies, and

- (f) a timescale within which the Irish language shall become the default language for the provision of services by public bodies in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas and tenders relating to public services shall be made proactively through the medium of the Irish language.”.

—Brid Smith.

208.In page 24, line 23, to delete “bodies.” and substitute the following:

“bodies, and

- (f) a timescale within which services provided through the medium of the Irish language shall be provided to a high standard in every domain relating to language use in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas.”.

—Brid Smith.

209.In page 24, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“(3A) The Minister shall establish a standard within 6 months of the

[SECTION 7]

enactment of this Act to ensure that all of the services of the State will be available in the Gaeltacht through Irish before 31 December 2025.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

210.In page 24, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“(3A) The Irish language shall be the default language for the provision of services by public bodies in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas and tenders relating to public services shall be made proactively through the medium of the Irish language by 31 December 2025.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

211.In page 24, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

“(3A) Services provided through the medium of the Irish language shall be provided to a high standard in every domain relating to language use in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas and tenders relating to services shall be made proactively through the medium of the Irish language by 31 December 2025.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

212.In page 25, line 29, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “aicmithe”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

213.In page 25, to delete line 33 and substitute “(c) aon aicmiú teanga a fhorordófar faoin alt seo, is aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

214.In page 26, lines 1 and 2, to delete “with particular reference to Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas” and substitute the following:

“with the objective that a public body, which serves a Gaeltacht Language Planning Area as part of its functional area, provide all of its services to the Gaeltacht community in that Language Planning Area in the Irish language before 31 December 2025”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

215.In page 27, line 7, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “aicmithe”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

216.In page 27, line 8, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “haicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

217.In page 27, line 12, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

218.In page 27, line 13, to delete “gcaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 7]

- 219.**In page 27, line 14, to delete “caighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 220.**In page 27, line 21, to delete “caighdeáin” and substitute “haicmithe”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 221.**In page 27, line 25, to delete “dréachtchaighdeáin” and substitute “dréacht-aicmithe”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 222.**In page 27, line 27, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 223.**In page 27, line 29, to delete “ndréachtchaighdeán” and substitute “ndréacht-aicmithe”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 224.**In page 27, line 30, to delete “dréachtchaighdeáin” and substitute “dréacht-aicmithe”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 225.**In page 26, line 30, after “or (d)” to insert “for a further period not longer than three months and on the basis of one designated exceptional reason, with the consent of the Advisory Committee”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 226.**In page 27, line 33, to delete “de chaighdeáin” and substitute “d’aicmithe”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 227.**In page 27, line 36, to delete “chaighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 228.**In page 29, line 5, to delete “caighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 229.**In page 28, to delete lines 5 to 9 and substitute the following
“**19B.**(1) Where the Minister has prescribed, under section 19A(2), a language standard to apply to a public body, the body shall comply with the standard, or part of the standard, as the case may be, unless and until a derogation has been granted in respect of the standard or in respect of part of the standard.”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 230.**In page 29, line 6, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 231.**In page 29, line 7, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 7]

232. In page 29, line 9, to delete “chaighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

233. In page 29, line 10, to delete “chaighdeán, an caighdeán, nó cuid den chaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú, an t-aicmiú, nó cuid den aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

234. In page 29, line 12, to delete “gcaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

235. In page 29, line 13, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

236. In page 29, line 17, to delete “chaighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

237. In page 29, line 18, to delete “caighdeán teanga a fhorordú, is caighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú teanga a fhorordú, is aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

238. In page 29, line 21, to delete “gcaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

239. In page 29, line 22, to delete “chaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

240. In page 29, line 25, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “t-aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

241. In page 29, line 26, to delete “chaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

242. In page 29, line 36, to delete “chaighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

243. In page 29, line 43, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “t-aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

244. In page 30, line 9, to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

245. In page 30, line 10, to delete “or” and substitute “and the Advisory Committee, as well as”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

246. In page 31, line 15, to delete “gcaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 7]

- 247.**In page 31, line 16, to delete “chaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 248.**In page 31, line 23, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 249.**In page 31, line 24, to delete “gcaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 250.**In page 30, line 25, after “appropriate” to insert “to promote the Irish language”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 251.**In page 30, line 27, to delete “3 years” and substitute “2 years”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 252.**In page 31, line 30, to delete “gcaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 253.**In page 31, line 31, to delete “chaighdeán” and substitute “aicmiú”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 254.**In page 31, line 43, to delete “caighdeán” and substitute “t-aicmiú”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 255.**In page 33, line 2, to delete “caighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 256.**In page 32, line 2, to delete “may” and substitute “shall”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 257.**In page 32, line 2, after “guidelines” to insert “, within three months of issuing the language standards,”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 258.**In page 33, line 5, to delete “caighdeáin” and substitute “aicmithe”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 259.**In page 32, line 6, to delete “as soon as practicable” and substitute “on the same date as they are issued”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.
- 260.**In page 32, line 7, to delete “Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht” and substitute “Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media or whichever Department has responsibility for the Irish language, the Gaeltacht or the Irish-speaking Community”.
—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 7]

261. In page 32, line 8, to delete “subsection (1).” insert the following:

“subsection (1).

Injunctions in relation to infringements

19E. (1) Where a public body fails or refuses or neglects to comply with any provision of this Act or any provision of regulations made pursuant to this Act, the High Court may, by order, on application by any person, whether or not such person has a particular interest in such failure or refusal or neglect, require any public body to do or refrain from doing, or cease from doing, as the case may be, anything that the Court considers necessary and specifies in the order, in order for the public body to comply with any provision of this Act or any provision of regulations so made pursuant to this Act.

(2) An application to the High Court for an order under this section shall be by motion and the Court, when considering the matter, may make such interim or interlocutory order (if any) as it considers appropriate.”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

SECTION 8

262. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 21 of Principal Act

8. Section 21 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (a):

“(aa) to monitor, where he or she considers appropriate, compliance by public bodies with any other enactment relating to the status or use of an official language,”.

—An tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

263. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 29 of Principal Act

8. Section 29 of the Principal Act is amended by the substitution of “of this Act, or any enactment relating to the status or use of an official language,” for “of this Act”.

—An tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

264. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Financial Companies, Utility Companies and Communications Companies

8. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new Part after Part 3:

“PART 3A

FINANCIAL COMPANIES, UTILITY COMPANIES AND COMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

Duties of financial companies, utility companies and communications companies to provide service in the official languages

- 19A.** (1) Where a person communicates in an official language with a company that provides a financial, utility or communications service under the control of the Central Bank of Ireland, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities or the Commission for Communications Regulation, in writing or by electronic mail, that company shall reply in the same language before 31 December 2030.
- (2) Where a company that provides a financial, utility or communications service under the control of the Central Bank of Ireland, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities or the Commission for Communications Regulation communicates in writing, by electronic mail, or on an electronic service or online, including an automated teller machine and online banking services, with a consumer, the body shall ensure that the consumer shall have the opportunity to receive personal communication, including Bills, and to use interactive services in his or her choice of official language before 31 December 2030.
- (3) The company responsible to the public for providing any financial, utility or communications service provided in a Gaeltacht area, as defined under the Gaeltacht Act 2012, must provide that service entirely through the Irish language before 31 December 2030.”.”

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell, Ruairí Ó Murchú.

265. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Private Companies

- 8.** The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new Part after Part 3:

“PART 3A

PRIVATE COMPANIES

Duties of private companies regarding people’s names, addresses and titles

- 19A.** (1) It shall be the duty of every private company, established in accordance with the Companies Acts, to record and use correctly in the Irish language a person’s name or title or address or all of these in the Irish language (including accents).
- (2) This section shall come into operation on 31 December 2027.”.”

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 8]

266. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Private Companies

8. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of following new Part after Part 3:

“PART 3A

PRIVATE COMPANIES

Duties of private companies regarding people’s names, addresses and titles

19A. Every private company established in accordance with the Companies Acts shall ensure that the information and communication systems, and any other systems (whether electronic or otherwise), which the company uses in its communications with the general public, or with a class of the general public, as the case may be, shall be configured in a way that those systems can record and use correctly a person’s name (including the patronymic or matronymic form of the name and accents on vowels in the Irish language), local name (including accents on vowels in the Irish language), address (including accents on vowels in the Irish language), or title (including accents on vowels in the Irish language and the right not to use a title) in the Irish language in relation to the services which the company offers or provides not later than 31 December 2027.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

267. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Private Companies

8. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of following new Part after Part 3:

“PART 3A

PRIVATE COMPANIES

Private Companies

19A. (1) Private companies established in accordance with the Companies Acts that have 250 or more people employed shall have the same duties as public bodies under this Act.

(2) This section shall come into effect on 31 December 2030 for any particular duties in this Act that relate to functioning, or providing a service, in a Gaeltacht area, and on 31 December 2035 in the case of every other duty.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

268. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Right to use the Irish language

8. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new Part after Part 3:

“PART 3A

RIGHT TO USE THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Right to use the Irish language

19A. The Irish language is the national language, and accordingly, it is recognised that everyone has the right to communicate with the State through the medium of the Irish language.

Request to the Commissioner to protect the right to use the Irish language

19B. (1) A person may request the Commissioner to carry out an investigation to ascertain whether another person has interfered with the right of the first-mentioned person to communicate through the medium of the Irish language (the ‘alleged interference’).

(2) The request must state—

- (a) the second-mentioned person, and
- (b) the alleged interference.

Communication through the medium of the Irish language

19C. Under this Part, ‘communication through the medium of the Irish language’ means communication through the medium of the Irish language between two persons, in so far as such persons—

- (a) are in the State, and
- (b) seek to make use of the Irish language while communicating.

Interference with right to communicate through the medium of the Irish language

19D. (1) In this Part, the second-mentioned person shall be taken to have interfered with the right of the first-mentioned person to communicate through the medium of the Irish language with a third person in any of the following cases—

- (a) where the second-mentioned person notifies the first-mentioned person or the third person that certain communication should not be made through the medium of the Irish language,
- (b) where the second-mentioned person notifies the first-mentioned person or the third person that the first-mentioned person or the third person may be harmed as a result of certain communication made through the medium of the Irish language,

- (c) where the second-mentioned person, or a person acting on behalf of the second-mentioned person, causes harm to the first-mentioned person or the third as a result of certain communication made through the medium of the Irish language.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, this Part applies irrespective of whether—
 - (a) the second-mentioned person or another person has the authority to give such notice, and
 - (b) the second-mentioned person or another person has the authority to implement the notice.
- (3) In this Part, any reference to harm shall include a reference to intimidation, bullying, harassment or stigmatisation.

Investigations

- 19E.** (1) If the first-mentioned person makes a request to the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall decide whether or not to carry out an investigation of alleged interference. In so deciding, the Commissioner—
- (a) must have regard to the context in which the alleged interference occurred (including any relationship between the second-mentioned person and the first-mentioned person, and between the second-mentioned person and the third person),
 - (b) may request the first-mentioned person, the second-mentioned person or any other person to provide information or observations relating to the alleged interference; and
 - (c) must, if he or she requests the first-mentioned person or the second-mentioned person to provide information or observations, provide them with the information relating to the investigation.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Commissioner from taking any matter that he or she considers relevant into consideration while deciding whether to carry out an investigation of alleged interference.
- (3) Where the Commissioner decides to carry out an investigation of alleged interference—
- (a) he or she must inform the first-mentioned person and the second-mentioned person of the decision,
 - (b) he or she must provide information relating to the investigation to the first-mentioned person and the second-mentioned person (unless already provided under paragraph (c)),
 - (c) he or she may request the first-mentioned person, the second-mentioned person or any other person to provide information or observations in relation to the alleged interference, and
 - (d) he or she must, insofar as it is practicable, give the second-

mentioned person an opportunity to respond to the allegations made by the first-mentioned person or by any other person.

- (4) Where the Commissioner decides not to carry out an investigation, he or she must inform the first-mentioned person—
 - (a) of the decision, and
 - (b) of the reasons for such decision.
- (5) The Commissioner must carry out the duties laid down under subsections (1) or (2) as soon as possible after making a decision.
- (6) In this section, “information relating to the investigation” includes information regarding—
 - (a) the procedure for carrying out investigations under this section, and
 - (b) the powers of the Commissioner in relation to such investigations.
- (7) The Commissioner may, at any time, terminate an investigation of an alleged interference. Where he or she so decides, he or she must—
 - (a) inform the first-mentioned person and the second-mentioned person of the decision, and
 - (b) inform the first-mentioned person of the reasons for so deciding, as soon as possible after such making the decision.

Determination of alleged interference

- 19F.** (1) Where the Commissioner decides to carry out an investigation of alleged interference and not to terminate the investigation, the Commissioner must determine whether or not the second-mentioned person has interfered with the right of the first-mentioned person to communicate through the medium of the Irish language.
- (2) Where the Commissioner determines that the second-mentioned person has interfered with the right of the first-mentioned person to communicate through the medium of the Irish language, the Commissioner must give his or her observations on the interference (including whether or not the interference was justified in his or her opinion).
 - (3) Before making his or her determination or observations under this section, the Commissioner must—
 - (a) inform the second-mentioned person of the determination and the observations the Commissioner intends to make, and
 - (b) insofar as is practicable, give the second-mentioned person an opportunity to respond to the proposed determination and observations.
 - (3) The Commissioner must inform the first-mentioned person and the

second-mentioned person of his or her determination in relation to the request from the first-mentioned person, and of his or her observations, where he or she has determined that an interference was made on the right of the first-mentioned person to communicate through the medium of the Irish language, as soon as possible after making a determination.

- (4) The Commissioner may advise the first-mentioned person, the second-mentioned person or any other person regarding—
 - (a) the alleged interference, or
 - (b) any matter relating to the alleged interference.

Report on Determinations

19G. (1) The Commissioner may prepare a report, and submit it to the Minister, regarding—

- (a) the request, and
 - (b) an action made by the Commissioner as a response to the request.
- (2) The Commissioner must provide the first-mentioned person and the second-mentioned person with a copy of any such report that relates to them.
 - (3) The Commissioner may publish a report submitted to the Minister, or a version of the report, or other documents relating, in whole or in part, to the matters contained in the report, if—
 - (a) he or she informs the first-mentioned person and the second-mentioned person of his or her intention to publish the document, and
 - (b) insofar as is practicable, he or she gives the first-mentioned person, the second-mentioned person or any other person as the Commissioner considers appropriate, an opportunity to inform the Commissioner of her or her opinions regarding publishing the documents publicly,
 - (c) the first-mentioned person and the second-mentioned person agree to publish the document publicly, or if the Commissioner is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to publish the document publicly. While determining the public interest, the Commissioner shall have regard to the interest of the first-mentioned person and the second-mentioned person, and the interest of any other person as the Commissioner considers appropriate.
 - (4) Where the Commissioner decides that the second-mentioned person did not interfere with the right of the first-mentioned person to communicate through the medium of the Irish language, the identity of the second-mentioned person shall not be disclosed in any document or report made public.

Use of Irish in the Workplace

- 19H.** (1) An employer may not prevent any of his or her employees from speaking or writing in the Irish language or from saying or writing the Irish language version of an Irish placename in the course of his or her employment, unless, in specific cases on certain occasions, the employer can objectively prove that the prohibition on speaking or writing in the Irish language is necessary to carry out the business of the employer.
- (2) Where the Commissioner determines, pursuant to an investigation conducted pursuant to Part 4, that an employer has contravened subsection (1), the Commissioner may order that employer to pay compensation not exceeding €5,000 to the employee to whom such contravention relates.

Right to use Irish in Annual Report

- 19I.** The Commissioner’s annual report shall, in accordance with section 30 of this Act, make reference to—
- (a) the requests made to the Commissioner in the period to which the report relates,
 - (b) the actions taken by the Commissioner in response to the requests made during that period, and
 - (c) the observations of the Commissioner in respect of the adequacy and effectiveness of the legislation in relation to the right of persons who wish to use the Irish language.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

269. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Implications of non-compliance

- 8.** The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new Part after Part 3:

“PART 3A

IMPLICATIONS OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Injunctions in relation to contraventions

- 19A.** (1) Where a public body or any relevant party fails or refuses or neglects to comply with any provision of this Act or any provision of regulations made pursuant to this Act or provisions of any other Act relating to the use of an official language, the High Court may by order, on application by the Commissioner, or the Minister or any other person, whether or not such person has a specific interest in any such failure, refusal or neglect, require any public body or party, to do or refrain from doing, or cease from doing, as the case may be,

[SECTION 8]

anything to comply with any provision of this Act or any provision of regulations made pursuant to this Act or provisions of any other Act relating to the use of an official language as the Court considers necessary and as it may specify in the order, including compensation not exceeding €10,000 to be paid to the applicant.

- (2) An application to the High Court for an order under this section shall be by motion and the Court, when considering the matter, may make such interim or interlocutory order (if any) as it considers appropriate.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

270. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 21 of Principal Act

8. Section 21(1) of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) in paragraph (a), after “Act” by the insertion of “, or provisions of any other Act relating to the use of an official language”,
- (b) in paragraph (b), after “Act” by the insertion of “, or provisions of any other Act relating to the use of an official language”, and
- (c) in paragraphs (d) and (e), after “Act” by the insertion of “or under provisions of any other Act relating to the use of an official language”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

271. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 21 of Principal Act

8. Section 21(1) of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (f):

- “(g) to carry out an investigation, whether on his or her own initiative, on request by a Minister, Teachta Dála or Senator, on any piece of legislation or on any Bill brought before the Oireachtas, to ascertain whether any provision is contrary to the promotion of either of the two official languages of the State or to the language rights of any person. The Commissioner shall submit a report of the findings of the investigation and of the impact of such legislation or Bill would have, if it were passed, to any Minister the Commissioner considers appropriate, and to the Joint Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community and he or she shall cause a copy of the report to be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas. The report shall be published in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Bill.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 8]

272. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 21 of Principal Act

8. Section 21 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (1) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (f):

“(g) to carry out an investigation, whether on his or her own initiative, on request by a Minister, public body, Teachta Dála or Senator, or pursuant to a complaint made to him or her by any person, on any strategy, scheme, proposal or report prepared or issued by the State, Government or any public body, in relation to the status or use of an official language, to ascertain whether it is contrary to the promotion of either of the two official languages of the State or to the language rights of any person. The Commissioner shall submit a report of the findings of the investigation and of the impact of the strategy, the scheme, the proposal or the report, if implemented, to any Minister the Commissioner considers appropriate, and to the Joint Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community and he or she shall cause a copy of the report to be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas. The Commissioner may continuously monitor any strategy, scheme, proposal or report in respect of which an investigation was carried out, and comment on them in his or her annual report.””.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

273. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 21 of Principal Act

8. Section 21(1) of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (f):

“(g) carry out an investigation into any derogation from language standards in accordance with section 19C, and—

- (i) ascertain whether or not a specific derogation is necessary,
- (ii) cancel a derogation if he or she is of the opinion that it is not necessary, and
- (iii) submit a report regarding any decision made in accordance with this section to the Joint Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community.””.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 8]

274. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Interactive Assistance Services

8. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following Part after Part 3:

“PART 3A

INTERACTIVE ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Duties of private companies in respect of assistance engines

19A. Where an interactive assistance engine or device is used in any business or in any public place in the State to serve a consumer or the general public, every public body and private company established in accordance with the Companies Acts shall ensure that any interactive service is provided in at least both official languages, on any such engine or device under its administration no later than 31 December 2025.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

275. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 21 of Principal Act

8. Section 21 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (1) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (f):

“(g) to protect the principle that the Irish language shall not be dealt with on a less favourable basis than the English language.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

276. In page 32, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 21 of Principal Act

8. Section 21 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following paragraphs after paragraph (f):

“(g) to examine each Bill initiated in the Houses of the Oireachtas and to report on the impact that Bill would have, if passed, on the status and use of the official languages of the State and such report shall be published in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Bill, and

(h) to examine each strategy of the State, the Government or any public body in relation to the status or use of an official language and to report annually to each House of the Oireachtas thereon.”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

[SECTION 8]

277. In page 32, to delete lines 9 to 16 and substitute the following:

“Amendment of section 31 of Principal Act

8. The Principal Act is amended by the substitution of the following section for section 31:

“Establishment of Placenames Commission

31. (1) The Minister shall, by order, establish a commission, to be known as the Placenames Commission, to do the following:

(a) examine the Irish language version of placenames, namely—

(i) the names of townlands, parishes, baronies, districts and other areas of a country,

(ii) the postal names of townlands, villages, large towns and cities,

(iii) the names of other principal places not included under subparagraphs (i) and (ii),

(b) research the original correct Irish language version of those placenames in so far as they had, or have, an Irish language version and confirm such Irish language versions, and

(c) prepare lists of the Irish language version of such placenames for publication and official use.

(2) The Minister shall ensure the following—

(a) the person who is appointed as an independent Chairperson has the required level of competence in the Irish language and has a certain experience and expertise in relation to the Irish language version of placenames and the person appointed will not be employed by a public body falling within paragraph 1(1) of the First Schedule while performing his or her duties as chairperson,

(b) all other members appointed to the Commission have the required level of competence in the Irish language and have some experience and expertise in the Irish language version of placenames.

(3) The Minister may do anything by regulations which he or she considers necessary or expedient for giving effect to this section and for the regulation of the Placenames Commission, including the extension of functions of the Commission referred to in subsection (1).”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

SECTION 9

278. In page, 32, line 14, after “persons” to insert “with the required level of competence in the Irish language”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 8]

279. In page 32, line 15, to delete “as he or she considers appropriate” and substitute “in particular Irish language version of placenames,”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

SECTION 10

280. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of First Schedule to Principal Act

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

(a) in paragraph 1—

(i) by the deletion of subparagraph (4), and

(ii) in subparagraph (5), by the substitution of the following clause for clause (d):

“(d) any other body, organisation or group—

(i) on which functions which relate to the general public or a class of the general public stand conferred by any enactment, or

(ii) which is permitted or required by any licence or authority granted or given under any enactment to perform functions under that or any other enactment which relate to the general public or a class of the general public.”,

(b) in paragraph 2, by the substitution of “clause (d) of paragraph 1(5)” for “clause (b) of paragraph 1(5)”,

(c) in paragraph 3, by the substitution of “subparagraph (1) or (2)” for “subparagraph (2)”, and

(d) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph 3:

“3A. In making regulations in respect of a body, organisation or group in accordance with this Schedule, the Minister shall have regard to the purposes of this Act and, in so doing, shall take the following into account:

(a) the level of communication, whether in writing or by electronic mail, by telephone or in person, between the body, organisation or group concerned and the general public or a class of the general public;

(b) the level of communication, whether in writing or by electronic mail, by telephone or in person, between the body, organisation or group concerned and the general public or a class of the general public living in a Gaeltacht area, Gaeltacht Language Planning Area, Gaeltacht Service Town or Irish Language Network.”.

—An tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

281. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of Principal Act

10. Part 6 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 36:

“37. (1) In this section, ‘Act of 1979’ means the Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979.

(2) This section recognises the role of Údarás na Gaeltachta under section 8(1) of the Act of 1979 as the main public body in encouraging the preservation and extension of the use of the Irish language as the principal medium of communication in the Gaeltacht, and the role of the Gaeltacht Civil Rights Movement in its establishment.

(3) In order to ensure the participation of the Gaeltacht community in the development and advancement of the Irish language in the Gaeltacht, the Act of 1979 is amended—

(a) in section 6 by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (2):

‘(2) An tÚdarás shall consist of a chairperson, who shall be appointed by the Minister and nineteen other members of whom seventeen shall be persons elected in accordance with Part IV of this Act and two of whom shall be appointed by the Minister.’;

(b) by the substitution of the following section for section 29:

‘29. (1) Each of the following areas shall be a constituency for the purposes of this Part:

(a) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Donegal;

(b) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Mayo;

(c) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Galway;

(d) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Meath;

(e) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Kerry;

(f) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Cork; and

(g) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Waterford.

(2) In an election—

- (a) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(a) shall return four persons,
- (b) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(b) shall return two persons,
- (c) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(c) shall return six persons,
- (d) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(d) shall return one person,
- (e) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(e) shall return two persons,
- (f) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(f) shall return one person, and
- (g) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(g) one person.’;

and

(c) in the First Schedule, by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraphs 2 and 3:

‘2. A member of an tÚdarás, other than a member appointed in accordance with section 6(2)(a)(vi), shall, unless he or she sooner dies, resigns, becomes disqualified or is removed from office, hold office, for a period not exceeding five years.’.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

282.In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of First Schedule to Principal Act

10. The First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended in paragraph 1 by the substitution of the following subparagraphs for subparagraphs (1) to (5):

“(1) All Government Departments, Offices or Organisations established in the Constitution of Ireland, and the following offices:

- (a) Commission for Public Service Appointments;
- (b) Office of the Revenue Commissioners;
- (c) Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs;
- (d) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; and

- (e) Central Statistics Office.
- (2) All agencies, boards, and state companies (commercial and non-commercial),
- (3) a local authority,
- (4) a health board and the Health Service Executive,
- (5) retail banks under the control of the Central Bank of Ireland,
- (6) all bodies, organisations or groups which receive moneys directly from a Minister of the Government, a Department of State, the Central Fund or other public body in circumstances where the amount or aggregate of the amounts so received constitutes 50 per cent or more of the current expenditure of that body, organisation or group in a financial year, or in which the majority of the shares are held by or on behalf of a Minister of the Government,
- (7) any body, organisation or group that at the date of the coming into operation of this Schedule is a public body but subsequently comes under private ownership and control,
- (8) any body, organisation or group performing functions which previously stood vested by law in a body, organisation or group under public ownership or control,
- (9) any other body, organisation or group on which functions in relation to the general public or a class of the general public stand conferred or permitted by any enactment or any public service obligation contracts or by any licence or authority given under any enactment, insofar as it relates to the performance of those particular functions.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

283.In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of First Schedule to Principal Act

- 10.** Paragraph 1 of the First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subparagraph after subparagraph (4):

“(4A) Retail banks under the control of the Central Bank of Ireland.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

284.In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of First Schedule to Principal Act

- 10.** Paragraph 1 of the First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subparagraph after subparagraph (4):

[SECTION 10]

“(4A) All bodies, organisations or groups which receive moneys directly from a Minister of the Government, a Department of State, the Central Fund or other public body in circumstances where the amount or aggregate of the amounts so received constitutes 50 per cent or more of the current expenditure of that body, organisation or group in a financial year, or in which the majority of the shares are held by or on behalf of a Minister of the Government.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

285. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 7 of Juries Act 1976

10. The Juries Act 1976 is amended by the substitution of the following section for section 7:

“Ineligibility

7. (1) The persons specified in Part I of the First Schedule shall be ineligible for jury service.
- (2) Where the Irish language is the language which the accused has chosen to use in the proceedings before the court in any particular case, or if the court is sitting in a Gaeltacht area, any person who shall not have the competence to understand evidence and submissions in the Irish language without the assistance of an interpreter shall be ineligible for such case.
- (3) Where the English language is the language which the accused has chosen in the proceedings before the court in any particular case, any person who shall not have the competence to understand evidence and submissions in the English language without the assistance of an interpreter will be ineligible for such case.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

286. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 33 of Principal Act

10. Section 33 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (3):

“(4) In any placename declared by the Minister or by a local authority for any new development from the implementation of the *Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021*, only the Irish language version shall be declared and only the Irish placename shall have force and effect.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

287. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of the Principal Act

10. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 36:

“37. The Minister shall, in consultation with the Minister for Finance, and no later than 6 months from the coming into operation of the *Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021*, prepare, issue and submit a report to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Irish language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community on the possibilities for strengthening the Irish language in the Gaeltacht by attracting public services and private investment with language conditions to Gaeltacht areas, including discounts on costs and the foundation of a Gaeltacht Free area based on the Shannon Free area.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

288. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of the Principal Act

10. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 36:

“Chief Sociolinguist

37. (1) The Minister may appoint a person, who shall have particular expertise in sociolinguistics and proficiency in the Irish language, within the Department or on behalf of a university or a third level institution, to be the Chief Sociolinguist, after consultation with the Advisory Committee.

(2) The functions of the Chief Sociolinguist shall be—

(a) the coordination of continuous study on the sociolinguistic case of the Irish language in the State and in particular, in the Gaeltacht,

(b) the publication of an annual report on his or her research and the submission of the report to the Minister and to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Irish language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community before the end of every year, from his or her appointment, and

(c) scrutiny of the influence of any Bill or policy recommended by the Government, as the Chief Sociolinguist thinks appropriate, on the sociolinguistics of the State and of the Gaeltacht, and the submission of a report to the Minister and the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Irish language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community.

(3) The Advisory Committee and the Minister shall have regard to the research of the Chief Sociolinguist in preparing any plan, strategy, policy, legislation or document relating to the sociolinguistics of the

State.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

289. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of the Principal Act

10. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 36:

“Chief Sociolinguist

37. (1) The Minister shall appoint a person, before 31 December 2021, who shall have particular expertise in sociolinguistics and proficiency in the Irish language, within the Department or on behalf of a university or a third level institution, to be the Chief Sociolinguist after consultation with the Advisory Committee.
- (2) The functions of the Chief Sociolinguist shall be—
- (a) the coordination of continuous study on the sociolinguistic case of the Irish language in the State and in particular, in the Gaeltacht,
 - (b) the publication of an annual report on his or her research and the submission of the report to the Minister and the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Irish language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community before the end of every year, from his or her appointment, and
 - (c) scrutiny of the influence of any Bill or any policy recommended by the Government, as the Chief Sociolinguist thinks appropriate, on the sociolinguistics of the State and of the Gaeltacht, and the submission of a report to the Minister and to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Irish language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community.
- (3) The Advisory Committee and the Minister shall have regard to the research of the Chief Sociolinguist in preparing any plan, strategy, policy, legislation or document relating to the sociolinguistics of the State.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

290. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of the Principal Act

10. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 36:

“Comprehensive Study

37. (1) The Minister may organise a comprehensive study with experts from universities and third level institutions, on every policy, strategy, plan, legislation and document relating to State activities and State bodies as

[SECTION 10]

regards the Irish language which have been created since the foundation of the State in order to inspect their influence on the sociolinguistics of the State.

- (2) The objective of any study organised in accordance with subsection (1), shall be the publication of a comprehensive report and the submission of such report to each House of the Oireachtas and the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Irish language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community after 10 years, as the Minister thinks appropriate.
- (3) The Government and public bodies shall have regard to the recommendations of such report while preparing any policy, strategy, plan, legislation or document after its publication.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

291. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of Principal Act

10. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 36:

“Comprehensive Study

- 37.** (1) The Minister may organise a comprehensive study with experts from universities and other third level institutions, on every policy, strategy, plan, legislation and document relating to State activities and State bodies regarding the Irish language which have been created since the foundation of the State in order to inspect their influence on the sociolinguistics of the State.
- (2) The Minister shall publish a comprehensive report based on the results of such study and shall submit it to each House of the Oireachtas and the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Irish language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community before 31 December 2025.
- (3) The Government and public bodies shall have regard to the recommendations of such report in preparing any policy, strategy, plan, legislation or document after its publication.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

292. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of Principal Act

10. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 36:

- “37.** A service in either constitutional language shall not be limited to this legislation and where a service is requested which is not covered under the Caighdeán, every practical effort must be made in order to provide the service if requested. Where there is any disagreement regarding the

meaning of ‘every practical effort’, the Coimisinéir Teanga shall make the determination on the question.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

293. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of Principal Act

10. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 36:

“Traffic signs

37. (1) In this section—

‘Act of 1961’ means the Road Traffic Act 1961;

‘traffic sign’ has the same meaning as it has in section 95 (as amended by section 37(a)(ii) of the Road Traffic Act 1994) of the Act of 1961.

- (2) This section applies to traffic signs including those to which regulations under section 95(2) of the Act of 1961 apply and those to which a direction under section 95(16) of that Act applies.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of this section, any traffic sign erected at any location in the State shall be in the Irish language or in the Irish and English languages, notwithstanding any other enactment. In the case of a traffic sign in both the Irish and English languages—
 - (a) the text in the Irish language shall appear first,
 - (b) the text in the Irish language shall be as prominent, visible and legible as the text in the English language and it shall be in the same typeface, font and style,
 - (c) the lettering of the text in the Irish language shall not be smaller in size than the lettering of the text in the English language,
 - (d) the text in the Irish language shall communicate the same information as is communicated by the text in the English language,
 - (e) a word in the text in the Irish language shall not be abbreviated unless the word in the text in the English language, of which it is the translation, is also abbreviated,
 - (f) where the text in the Irish language is identical to the text in the English language or a placename is identical in the Irish and English languages, the Irish language version shall suffice,
 - (g) notwithstanding the generality of this section, traffic signs may be erected that are in compliance with the International System of Units as adopted by the Bureau Internationale des Poids et Mesures, established by the Metre Convention signed at Paris in 1875, and

- (h) where a placenames order under section 32 is, for the time being, in force, the Irish language version of the word or words specified in the order shall be used in any traffic signs erected.
- (4) Where it is proposed to place a traffic sign in the Irish and English languages and, as a result of text in both such languages appearing thereon, the sign would be unduly big, would be difficult to read or would be likely to cause obstruction, or that persons would, while reading it, be likely to constitute a danger to themselves or others, two signs may instead be placed at that location, one bearing the information concerned in the Irish language and the other bearing the information concerned in the English language, provided that the provisions in paragraphs (b) to (h) of subsection (3) are complied with.”.”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

294. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of Principal Act

10. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 36:

“Prevention of the prohibition of the Irish language in the workplace

- 37. (1) An employer may not prevent any of his or her employees from speaking or writing in the Irish language or from saying or writing the Irish language version of an Irish placename in the course of his or her employment, except in particular situations on certain occasions in which the employer can objectively prove that the prohibition on speaking or writing the Irish language was essential for the employer to carry out his or her business.
- (2) Where the Commissioner determines, pursuant to an investigation conducted pursuant to Part 4, that an employer has contravened subsection (1), the Commissioner may order such employer to pay compensation not exceeding €5,000 to the employee to whom such contravention relates.”.”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

295. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of Principal Act

10. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 36:

“Members of State boards

- 37. In nominating members of State boards, the Government Minister concerned shall ensure that the Irish-speaking community is represented on all State boards.”.”.

[SECTION 10]

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

296. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“10. The First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subparagraph after subparagraph (4):

“(4A) a retail bank.”.”.

—Brid Smith, Catherine Connolly.

297. In page 32, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“Amendment of First Schedule to Principal Act

10. The First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended, in paragraph 1, by inserting the following after subparagraph (2):

“(2A) any individual acting pursuant to a contract or otherwise as an agent on behalf of a public body who performs the functions of that public body, only in so far as relates to the performance of those particular functions.”.”.

—Dara Calleary, Eamon Ó Cuív, Andrias Moynihan, Joe McHugh, Fergus O’Dowd, Marc Ó Cathasaigh.

SECTION 11

298. In page 32, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 6 of Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979

11. Section 6 of the Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979 is amended by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (2):

“(2) An tÚdarás shall consist of a chairperson, who shall be appointed by the Minister and nineteen other members of whom seventeen shall be persons elected in accordance with Part IV of this Act and two of whom shall be appointed by the Minister.”.

Amendment of section 29 of Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979

12. The Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979 is amended by the substitution of the following section for section 29:

“29. (1) Each of the following areas shall be a constituency for the purposes of this Part:

(a) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Donegal;

(b) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Mayo;

(c) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the

county of Galway;

- (d) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Meath;
- (e) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Kerry;
- (f) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Cork, and
- (g) the area comprising those parts of the Gaeltacht situated in the county of Waterford.

(2) In an election—

- (a) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(a) shall return four persons,
- (b) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(b) shall return two persons,
- (c) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(c) shall return six persons,
- (d) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(d) shall return one person,
- (e) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(e) shall return two persons,
- (f) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(f) shall return one person, and
- (g) the constituency specified in subsection (1)(g) shall return one person.”.

Amendment of the First Schedule to Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979

13. The First Schedule to the Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979, is amended by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraphs 2 and 3:

“2. A member of an tÚdarás, other than a member appointed in accordance with section 6(2)(a)(vi), shall, unless he or she sooner dies, resigns, becomes disqualified or is removed from office, hold office, for a period not exceeding five years.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

299. In page 32, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 31 of Education Act 1998

11. Section 31 of the Education Act 1998 is amended by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (7):

[SECTION 11]

“(7) The Minister shall provide secretarial, research and administrative support to the body established under this section.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

300.In page 32, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“Amendment of Planning and Development Act 2000

- 11.** The Planning and Development Act 2000 is amended by the insertion of the following Part after Part X:

“PART XAC

LINGUISTIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Requirements of linguistic impact statement

177AF. (1) Where a planning application is made for a development in a Gaeltacht area, in accordance with the Gaeltacht Act 2012, as well as having to comply with requirements of the permission regulations in relation to the application, a linguistic impact statement, prepared by an independent expert in linguistics and/or language planning, shall be attached to the application and it must be proved objectively therein that the proposed development shall increase the use of Irish, instead of the use of English, locally in the Gaeltacht area.

- (2) Before determining the planning application, a local authority must request and obtain a positive recommendation from the selected organisation in accordance with section 7(6), (10)(a) or (13)(a) of the Gaeltacht Act 2012, to implement the language plan for the area, and from An Coimisinéir Teanga, indicating that the proposed development will not conflict with the language plan for the area.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

301.In page 32, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“Amendment of Planning and Development Act 2000

- 11.** The Planning and Development Act 2000 is amended by the insertion of the following Part after Part X:

“PART XAC

LANGUAGE CONDITIONS AND ASSESSMENT

Language Conditions

177AF. As regards any language conditions set down for a proposed development, a method must be shown for assessing the Irish language

[SECTION 11]

proficiency of the person seeking to become a householder and a fluency of level B2 or higher of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages will be the basic reference level for appropriate proficiency.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pearse Doherty, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

302.In page 32, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 33 of Garda Síochána Act 2005

11. Section 33 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 is amended by the substitution of the following for subsection (2):

“(2) The Garda Commissioner shall ensure that all members of the Garda Síochána stationed in a district that includes a Gaeltacht area are sufficiently competent in the Irish language to enable them to use it with facility in carrying out their duties by 31 December 2025.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

303.In page 32, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 33 of Garda Síochána Act 2005

11. Section 33(3) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, is amended, in the definition of “Gaeltacht area”, by the substitution of “has the same meaning it has in Part 2 of the Gaeltacht Act 2012” for “means an area for the time being determined to be a Gaeltacht area by order made under section 2 of the Ministers and Secretaries (Amendment) Act 1956”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

304.In page 32, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 123 of Broadcasting Act 2009

11. Section 123 of the Broadcasting Act 2009, is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (5):

“(6) The Minister will ensure that the ratio of public funding received by RTÉ and TG4 per annum by and from 31 December 2025 is such that TG4 receives no less funding, from the State, than one third of the total received by RTÉ.”.”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

305.In page 32, to delete lines 24 to 34.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.

[SECTION 13]

SECTION 13

306.In page 34, to delete lines 5 to 8 and substitute the following:

“(3) This Act shall come into operation on the day after the passing of this Act and with regard to the specific provisions of this Act, for which a day is fixed under this Act for such provisions to come into operation, they shall come into operation on that day, as is fixed for each one of those provisions under this Act.”.

—Catherine Connolly.

TITLE

307.In page 6, line 4, after “2003” to insert the following :

“, in order to promote the use of the Irish language as a vernacular language in every aspect of Irish life; to ensure an effective percentage of employees in the public service and recruits to the public service capable of performing their duties bilingually; to provide additional powers to the Coimisinéir Teanga; to set down language standards; to ensure that any person has the right to use the Irish language version of their name and address; to ensure that services through the medium of the Irish language are available to the Irish-speaking community and to the Gaeltacht community”.

—Catherine Connolly.

308.In page 6, line 5, after “matters” to insert “and miscellaneous provisions”.

—Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Pa Daly, Mairéad Farrell.