



## Irish Language Services Advisory Committee

### Minutes - Meeting 11 – 24 November 2023

**LOCATION:** Foras na Gaeilge, 63-66 Amiens Street, Dublin 1

**DATE:** Friday, 24 November 2023

**TIME:** 10:00 – 12:30

**PRESENT:**

Name	Organisation	Role	Means
Dr. Aodhán Mac Cormaic	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	Chairperson	On Site
Sinéad Coleman	Public Appointments Service	Member	On Site
Marta Alvarez (on behalf of John Howlin)	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform	Member	On Site
Superintendent Seán Glynn	An Garda Síochána	Member	On Site
Eithne Fox	Health Service Executive	Member	Via Remote Connection
Breandán Mac Craith	Foras na Gaeilge	Member	On Site
John Prendergast	Gaeltacht Communities	Member	On Site
Mairéad Ní Ghabháin	Irish Speaking Communities Outside of the Gaeltacht	Member	On Site
Séamas Ó Cuileannáin (on behalf of Niamh Kenny)	Department of Social Protection	Member	On Site
Jim Molloy	Local Government Management Agency	Member	On Site
Emily Maloney	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	Secretary	On Site
Sadhbh Ó Cinnseala	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	Acting Principal Officer of the Unit	On Site

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES:**

- Mags Campbell, representative of the Department of Education, was unable to attend the meeting.

## **KEY DECISIONS MADE:**

- The minutes of the previous meeting, on 27 October 2023, were agreed;
- It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Friday, 26 January 2024, in the Foras na Gaeilge building, 63-66 Amiens Street, Dublin 1;
- The dates and time of upcoming meetings until April 2024 were agreed;
- It was agreed that the Department would issue finalised draft terms of reference to the members of the Committee for approval regarding the establishment of a technical working group under section 9A of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021.

## **FULL AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

### **1. Welcome from the Chairperson:**

- The meeting began with an opening statement from the Chairperson of the Committee, Dr. Aodhán Mac Cormaic;
- The incidents and unrest that occurred in the city overnight were mentioned and the members of the Committee were commended for their commitment towards the work of the State in attending the meeting despite that terrible event. Particular commendation was given to those on the front line, particularly the emergency services, and thoughts were given to those injured during the incidents;
- A special welcome was given to Marta Alvarez and Séamas Ó Cuileannáin who were standing in for John Howlin and Niamh Kenny respectively at the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

- The minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on Friday, 27 October 2023 were agreed.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

#### **3.1. Section 9A of the Amended Act:**

- The Committee reviewed the draft terms of reference for the technical working group that is intended to be established under Section 9A, and a general discussion was had on them;
- Some groups and bodies were recommended for inclusion as part of the membership of the working group;
- It was agreed that the Department would issue finalised draft terms of reference, based on the discussion, to members for approval.

#### **3.2. Working Group on Recruitment Matters:**

- It was mentioned that a preliminary meeting was held recently between the business unit in the Department with the Public Appointments Service and the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform in relation to a

working group to be established in relation to Irish language recruitment in the civil service.

**4. Development of the National Plan:**

- It was mentioned that the second Research Fellow commenced their role on 13 November 2023;
- It was mentioned that the business unit had a meeting with the research team on 14 November 2023 to discuss the terms of reference of the research again, reconfirming the project's goals with them;
- Afterwards, there was a discussion on matters pertaining to recruitment and ensuring a ready supply of sufficient personnel with competence in the language in the long-term - the availability of Irish language early years' education inside and outside the Gaeltacht for example.

**5. Commentary Regarding the Committee in the Media:**

- It was stated that there were various relevant articles in the media since the last meeting, as follows:
  - An article dated 14 November 2023 on [Tuairisc.ie](https://www.tuairisc.ie) regarding the post of Secretary General in the Department;
  - Articles dated 21 November 2023 on [Tuairisc.ie](https://www.tuairisc.ie), and 23 November 2023 on [Tuairisc.ie](https://www.tuairisc.ie), regarding a meeting of Comhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus Phobal Labhartha na Gaeilge.

**6. Date of Next Meeting:**

- It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Friday, 26 January 2024, in the Foras na Gaeilge building, 63-66 Amiens Street, Dublin 1.



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Secretary

23 February 2024

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Date of Approval