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Acht na Gaeilge: Pléchaipéis

Irish Language Act: Discussion document

Leagan 1.1.

15 Márta 2017

Conradh na Gaeilge

Acht Gaeilge: Fíor nó Bréagach

Ag bréagnú roinnt den 'nuacht bhréagach' atá bainte le hAcht Gaeilge, agus an costas a bheadh leis.

BRÉAGACH

COSTAS

"Chosnódh acht teanga £100m, nó £30m fiú amháin, sa bhliain."

STÁTSEIRBHÍS

"Beidh ar gach duine sa státseirbhís a bheith líofa sa Ghaeilge, agus beidh orthu siúd atá sa chóras í a fhoghlaim."

DLINSÍ EILE

"Níor oibrigh Acht na Gaeilge ó dheas, cad chuige, mar sin, a n-oibreodh sé anseo."

CIONTA COIRIÚLA

"De réir acht teanga, beidh cionta coiriúla ann do dhaoine aonair nó comhlachtaí poiblí má theipeann orthu a ndualgais a chomhlíonadh."

FÍOR

COSTAS

Ní bhrisfeadh acht an banc - ní bheadh costas níos mó ná £4m sa bhliain leis.

STÁTSEIRBHÍS

Le cinntiú go gcosnófar cearta Gaeilgeoirí, beidh gá ann go mbeadh céatadán beag áirithe inniúil go leor chun seirbhísí a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge.
Ní chuirtear ar éinne í a fhoghlaim, ach beidh an deis sin ag achan duine.

DLINSÍ EILE

Oibríonn go leor de ghnéithe an Achta ó dheas go maith, agus gan é bheadh cás phobal na Gaeilge i bhfad Éireann níos measa. Agus muid ag cur an Achta le chéile, thig linn foghlaim ó/tógáil ar na dea-chleachtais ar fad ón deisceart, ó Albain, agus ón Bhreatain Bheag.

CIONTA COIRIÚLA

D'fheidhmeodh acht cosúil le píosaí reachtaíochta comhionannais eile, agus ní bheadh aon cionta coiriúla ar bith mar thoradh air, do dhuine aonair nó comhlacht poiblí ar bith.

Conradh na Gaeilge

Irish Language Act: Mythbusting

Mythbusting some of the 'fake news' surrounding what an Irish Language Act would involve and how much it would cost.

FALSE

COST

"A language act would cost £100m, or even £30m, a year."

CIVIL SERVICE

"Everyone in the civil service will have to be fluent in Irish, and those already in the system will have to learn it."

OTHER JURISDICTIONS

"The Irish Language Act hasn't worked in the Republic of Ireland, so why would it work here."

CRIMINAL OFFENCES

"Under a language act there will be criminal offences for individuals or public bodies who fail in their obligations"

TRUE

COST

An act wouldn't break the bank, and would cost **under £4m a year.**

CIVIL SERVICE

A certain, small, percentage will have to be competent enough to provide services through Irish, to help ensure Irish speakers' rights are protected.
No one will be forced to learn it, but everyone will have the opportunity.

OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Many aspects of the Act in the Republic work very well, and without one the situation for the Irish language community would have been much worse. An act here can learn from and build upon the best practices from the Republic,as well as Wales an Scotland.

CRIMINAL OFFENCES

An act would work like other pieces of equality legislation, and **would not** result in any criminal offences for any individual or public body.

Conradh na Gaeilge

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Intreoir: Cad chuige a bhfuil Acht na Gaeilge de dhíth?

Tá an iliomad fáth ann d'Acht. Cé acu a dhéanann muid tagairt de ról stairiúil na Gaeilge; den fhéinchumhachtú a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim; den tábhacht cultúrtha roinnte atá léi; de na gealltanais a rinneadh i gcomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus comhaontú Chill Rímhinn; nó de na cairteacha Eorpacha agus idirnáisiúnta a dhearbhaíonn na réimsí leithne d'fhreagrachtaí reachtúla atá ar rialtais chun mionteangacha a chosaint; leo féin is cúis go leor gach ceann de na fáthanna sin chun Acht na Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm.

Ach níl tagairt ann ansin don chúis is bunasaí, dóshéanta le hacht a chur i gcrích. Sin é, go bhfuil ann do phobal na Gaeilge ó thuaidh. Is pobal iad a labhraíonn an Ghaeilge, a thugann tacaíocht nach beag di, a fhoghlaimíonn faoin domhan inti, agus pobal a bhfuil fás milteannach tagtha uirthi le blianta beaga anuas (meastar i gceann seacht bliana go mbeidh dúbláil ar an 6,000 duine a fhreastalaíonn ar an chóras oideachais trí mheán na Gaeilge ó thuaidh). Agus faoi láthair níl aon chosaint ón stát ann don phobal seo ar nós atá ann do chainteoirí Breatnaise sa Bhreatain Bheag. Mar sin de tá sé de chumhacht ag an stát leatrom nó neamhaird a léiriú ar phobal na Gaeilge, agus gan aon meicníocht dlíthiúil ann le dul i ngleic leis sin. Sampla soiléir a bhí i gcás Líofa ar na mallaibh, ach ba shampla beag é de phatrún leanúnach fadtréimhseach.

Faoi láthair tá todhchaí phobal na Gaeilge, agus todhchaí na teanga í féin, ag brath go hiomlán ar dhearcaidh phearsanta feidhmeannaigh agus airí. Tá géarghá le hAcht na Gaeilge le cosaint reachtúil, dlíthiúil a thabhairt don teanga is dá pobal, agus leis an teanga í féin a shlánú agus a neartú, rud a bheadh ar leas an phobal ar fad i gcoitinne.

Tá deis ar leith againn sa tréimhse stairiúil seo. Don chéad uair riamh, i ndiaidh an toghcháin is déanaí, tá tromlach de na comhaltaí sa Tionól Reachtach i bhfách le hAcht na Gaeilge. Ní mór dúinn an deis sin a thapú, beart a chur le briathar, agus Acht na Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm.

Introduction: Why is an Irish Language Act needed?

There are many reasons for an Act. Whether we refer to the historical role of Irish or to the self-empowerment that comes with learning Irish or to the importance of its shared heritage, or to the promises made in the Good Friday Agreement and the St. Andrew's Agreement or to the European and International charters that affirm the wide range of statutory responsibilities incumbent on the Government to defend minority languages, they are reasons within themselves to implement an Irish Language Act.

This, however, does not make reference to the simplest and undeniable reason to implement an act. That is, that an Irish Language community exists in the North. They are a community that speak Irish, that fully support Irish, that learn about the world through Irish, and it is a community that has had a monumental growth in the last few years (it is estimated that the 6,000 people who use the Irish education system in the North will double in the next 7 years).
At present, this community has no protection in the same way as Welsh speakers in Wales do. Therefore, the state has the power to ignore the Irish Language Community or to oppress it, and no legal mechanism exists to address this. The case of *Líofa* recently highlighted this, and was a further example of a continuous, long-term pattern.

Currently the future of the Irish Speaking Community, and the future of the language itself, depends completely on the personal opinions of executives and ministers. There is a desperate need for an Irish Language Act to provide statutory, lawful protection for the language and its community, and to secure and strengthen the language itself, something that would be beneficial to the community in general.

We have a unique chance in this historic period. For the first time ever, after the recent election, a majority of members in the Assembly are in favour of an Irish Language Act. We must seize this opportunity, act on our words, and implement an Irish Language Act.

Cad é atá sa cháipéis seo?

Is pléchaipéis oibre é seo ar Acht Gaeilge. Ní píosa reachtaíochta é ach briseadh síos ar na rannóga difriúla a bheadh bainte le hacht teanga, le míniúchán ar na rannóga sin, agus moltaí praicticiúla inoibrithe chun iad a chur i bhfeidhm. Tá sé i gceist ag an cháipéis seo daoine a chur ar an eolas faoi cad is ann d'acht Gaeilge, cad chuige a bhfuil forálacha ar leith de dhíth, agus na dóigheanna is fearr chun na forálacha sin a chur i bhfeidhm. Beidh leasuithe déanta ar an bplécháipéis oibre de réir is a thagann moltaí agus eolas breise chun cinn.

Nuair is cuí tá briseadh síos ann ar na costais leis na rannóga éagsúla, agus rud atá fíorthábhachtach, tá moltaí ann ar an dóigh na costais seo a choinneáil chomh íseal agus ar féidir. Mínítear gurb é costas aon uaire é go leor den chostas a bhaineann leis an Acht seo a chur i bhfeidhm. In aon teach, a oiread insliú a chuireann tú isteach ag an tús, agus is éifeachtaí a chuirtear isteach é, is lú airgid a bhíonn ort a chaitheamh bliain i ndiaidh bliana ag iarraidh an teach a choinneáil te. Is 'insliú' é Acht teanga do phobal na Gaeilge. Insliú a chosnaíonn an pobal sin roimh ionsaithe agus neamhaird. Mar sin de, is éifeachtaí a chuirtear na rannóga éagsúla i bhfeidhm is i bhfad Éireann níos mó airgid agus oibre a shábháiltear sa mheántéarma agus san fhadtéarma.

Ar ndóigh, beidh costas éigin ann. Ach léirítear go soiléir sa chaipéis seo gur costas fíor-réasúnta é, go háirithe má chuirtear an tAcht i bhfeidhm i gceart agus le dea-thoil.

What is in this document?

This is a discussion piece on an Irish Language Act. It's not a piece of legislation but a break-down of the different sections that would be involved in a language act, with an explanation of these sections, and particular proposals that are workable to implement them. It is the purpose of this document to inform people on what is involved with an Irish Language Act, why provisions to the act are needed, and the best ways to implement said provisions. Changes will be made to the working discussion piece as new proposals and information come to light.

When relevant a breakdown of the costs to the various departments has been provided, and there are important recommendations as to how to keep this cost as low as possible. It is explained that a significant amount of the costs required to implement this Act are one-off costs. In a home, the amount of insulation you initially install, and how effectively it is installed, the less it costs year after year trying to keep the house warm. The Language Act is 'Insulation' for the Irish Language community. Insulation that protects that community from attacks and neglect. Therefore, the more effective these departments are implemented, the more money and work are saved in the medium-term and in the long-term.

There will be some expense, of course. This document highlights, however, that it is a very reasonable cost, especially if the Act is implemented properly and willingly.

Achoimre Fheidhmeach

Moltar thíos go mbeadh 11 rannóg mar chuid d'aon acht Gaeilge. Ina measc tá forálacha a bhaineann le Stadás Oifigiúil na Teanga; An Ghaeilge sa Tionóil, sa Rialtas Áitiúil, agus i gComhlachtaí Poiblí; an Ghaeilge agus an BBC; An Ghaeilge san earnáil Oideachais; Coimisinéir Teanga; agus Logainmneacha.

Is é £9m an costas aon uaire, tosaithe a bheadh le hAcht Gaeilge, thar tréimhse 5 bliana. Bheadh seo caite ar na forálacha cuí taobh istigh de thréimhse ama, seachas ciall díreach ag an tús (meánmhéid de c.£1.8m sa bhliain).

Is é £2m an costas bliantúil a bheadh le hAcht Gaeilge, agus tuiscint ann gur féidir an costas sin a choinneáil réasúnta, inoibrithe má chuirtear an tAcht i bhfeidhm i gceart agus le dea thoil. Is ionann seo agus caiteachas de £10m mar sin thar tréimhse 5 bliana.

Meastar chomh maith go mbeadh £8m sa bhreis d'ioncam don gheilleagar ó thuaidh go bliantúil nuair a chomhlíonfar dualgais an BBC do chraolacháin Gaeilge. Is ionann seo agus ioncam de £40m mar sin thar tréimhse 5 bliana.

Sampla amháin de na moltaí praicticiúla, inoibrithe, chun foráil a chuir i bhfeidhm ar bheagchostas is é an moladh i dtaca le stáiseanóireacht dátheangach de chuid na ranna rialtais. Moltar go ndéantar uasdátú ar an stáiseanóireacht nuair atá an an stoc reatha rite – mar sin de níl costas breise leis, is gnáthchostas ordú stáiseanóireachta atá i gceist, sa chás seo le stáiseanóireacht uasdátaithe. Tá an caipéis seo lán den chinéal seo moladh.

Beidh costas éigin le hAcht Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm. Ach an rud a léirítear arís is arís eile sa cháipéis seo nach costas dódhéanta, thar fóir a bheadh i gceist – líomhaint a chuirtear chun tosaigh go minic gan na fíricí é a chosaint. A mhalairt atá fíor, is costas réasúnta, inoibrithe a bheadh ann. Níos tábhachtaí arís, is infheistiú a bheadh ann i bpobail an Tuaiscirt i gcoitinne.

Executive Summary

It is suggested that there would be 11 sections as part of the Irish Language Act. Included in this are provisions which concern the Official status of the language; Irish in the Assembly, in Local Government, and in Public Companies; Irish and the BBC; Irish in the Department of Education; a Language Commissioner; and Place-Names.

£9m is the one off cost, The Irish Language Act would be started over a five-year period. This would be spent on the appropriate demands within that period of time, as opposed to directly at the beginning. An average of £1.8m a year.

The annual cost of the Irish Language Act would be £2m, with an understanding that this cost could be kept reasonable and workable if the Act was put in place properly with good will. This would add up to £10m of expenditure over a five-year period.

It is estimated also that there would be an additional £8m extra spending yearly in the economy in the north when the BBC fulfils its obligations to Irish language programming. This would add up to £40 of extra income over a five-year period.

One example of the practical workable suggestions to implement provisions at low cost regards bilingual stationary in government departments. It is suggested that stationary should be updated when the current stock has run out- therefore this incurs no extra cost, and the cost would be the normal cost of ordering updated stationary. This document contains a considerable number of suggestions like this.

There will be some cost involved in implementing an Irish Language Act. What is shown again and again in this document is that it is not an unfeasible and unreasonable cost that would be involved- an allegation which is often made without the facts to back it up. Contrary to this, it is a reasonable cost, and a cost that would be practical. More importantly, it would represent an investment in the people of the North in general.

CAD É A BHEADH I GCEIST LE hACHT NA GAEILGE, MAR SIN?

Seo briseadh síos daoibh ar roinnt de na príomhfhoinsí a bhaineann le plécháipéis Chonadh na Gaeilge, agus an tábhacht atá leo.

1

STÁDAS OIFIGIÚIL

Ag tabhairt aitheantais don Ghaeilge mar cheann de na teangacha oifigiúla ó thuaidh, taobh leis an Bhéarla. Beart simplí ach ríthábhachtach a chosnódh cearta mionlaigh Gaeilgeoirí.

2

SEIRBHÍSÍ

Ag éascú comhlachtaí poiblí chun bunleibhéal idirghníomhaithe trí Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil do phobal na Gaeilge.
Tús áite a thabhairt do na comhlachtaí poiblí sin a mbíonn leibhéal idirghníomhaithe níos airde acu, agus ag teastáil coimitmintí ar nós foirmeacha agus suíomhanna idirlín ar fáil trí Ghaeilge.

3

COSTAS: FAOI £4M SA BHLIAIN

Míníonn an plécháipéis nach mbrisfeadh acht teanga an banc, go n-íoslaíonn an costas de réir ama, agus gur infhéistíocht é, i bhfírinne, in sa Tuaisceart ar an iomlán.

4

MOLTAÍ PRAICTIÚLA

Tugann an phlécháipéis eolas ar bheart moltaí praiticiúla, inoibrithe chun Acht Gaeilge éifeachtach, agus ar chostas ciallmhar, a chur i bhfeidhm.
Tá saineolas agus an dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta is fearr glactha ar bord againn, chomh maith leis na gnéithe rathúla den reachtaíocht éagsúil sa Bhreatain Bheag, in Albain agus ó dheas.

5

LOGAINMNEACHA & COMHARTHAÍOCHT

Tá feiceálacht na teanga ina cuid lárnach dá forbairt, agus chun a léiriú go bhfuil sé ina cuid tábhachtach dár n-oidhreacht chomhroinnte.
Chun sin a bhaint amach, rithfí reachtaíocht le haghaidh comharthaíochta bóithre atá dátheangach (atá difriúil ó chomharthaíocht sráide) agus le haghaidh aitheantais oifigiúil do logainmneacha Gaeilge. Sa cháipéis seo tá bealaigh ann chun na forálacha sin a chur i bhfeidhm ar bhonn praiticiúil & éifeachtach ó thaobh costais de.

6

FORÁLACHA EILE

Ba chóir don acht cosaint reachtúil a thabhairt don Ghaeloideachas; Ionad Aistriúchán Lárnach a bhunú chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do na comhlachtaí poiblí agus na forálacha éagsúla á gcur i bhfeidhm acu; ardú a dhéanamh ar infhéistíocht an BBC i meáin an Tuaiscirt; Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga a bhunú chun maoirseacht a dhéanamh.

SO, WHAT WOULD AN IRISH LANGUAGE ACT INVOLVE?

Here's a simple breakdown of some of the key elements of the Conradh na Gaeilge discussion document, and why they're important.

1

OFFICIAL STATUS

Recognising the Irish Language as one of the official languages of the North, alongside English.
A simple but important measure that would protect the minority rights of Irish speakers.

2

SERVICES

Enabling public bodies to provide a certain baseline level of interaction with the Irish Language community through Irish.
Prioritising those bodies that have a higher level of interaction with the public, and requiring commitments such as having forms and websites in Irish.

3

COST: UNDER £4M A YEAR

This discussion document explains how a language act wouldn't break the bank, how the cost goes **down** as time goes on, and how it is actually an investment in the North as a whole.

4

WORKABLE SOLUTIONS

The discussion document details a host of practical, workable solutions to implementing an effective and reasonably costed Irish Language Act.
International best practice has been taken on board, as well as the successful aspects of legislation in Wales, Scotland and the Republic.

5

PLACENAMES AND SIGNAGE

Visibility of the language is key for its growth, and to demonstrate that it's part of our shared heritage.
To achieve this an act would legislate for bilingual road signage (different from street signs) and official recognition for place names in Irish. The document outlines methods to introduce these measures in as cost-effective a manner as possible.

6

OTHER PROVISIONS

The act should provide legislative protections for Irish Medium education; create one Central Translation Unit to support public bodies to implement various provisions; increase BBC investment in media in the North; create the Office of the Language Commissioner to act as an oversight.

Conradh na Gaeilge

	Míniúchán ar na Rannóga Éagsúla den Acht	Costas Tosaithe nó Costas Aon Uaire	Costas Bliantúil	Dáta Gníomh
1	**Stádas Oifigiúil**			
1.1	**Deimhnítear go bhfuil an Ghaeilge ar cheann de na teangacha oifigiúla ó Thuaidh (Béarla an ceann eile.)**	0	0	Láithreach
2	**Lárionad Aistriúcháin**			
2.1	**Rannóg Lárnach Aistriúcháin a bhunú in Oifig an Fheidhmeannais** Foireann de dheichniúr fostaithe le feidhmiú mar a bheadh crann taca ann do na comhlachtaí poiblí ar fad. Aistritheoir sinsearach, agus foireann d' ateangairí agus aistritheoirí le saineolas ar an dlítheanga ag obair leo. D'éascódh siad comhfhreagras, Gaeilge sa Tionól, agus an aistriúchán ar bhillí agus ar fhoilseacháin eile a bheadh á dhéanamh ag níos mó ná 100 comhlacht poiblí. Go mbeadh an seirbhís in san aonad seo ag leibheáil le go dtiocfadh le daoine a bheith ag brath ar na comhlachtaí poiblí a ndualgais a chomhlíonadh go sásúil. Má dhéantar infheistiú ceart in sa lárionad seo, is mó airgead a shabháiltear ar na gnéanna ar fad eile san Acht.	£100,000 Costas bunaithe	£500,000 Foireann measta: 2 ateangaire 2 dlí aistritheoirí 5 aistritheoir 1 Stiúrthóir	Láithreach
3	**Gaeilge sa Tionól**			
3.1	**Go mbeadh sé de cheart ag aon CTR nó ball den phobal an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus iad ag dul i mbun díospóireachta sa Tionól, nó mar chuid de obair choistí & fó-choistí Stormont**. Nach gcuirfeadh seo bac orthu siúd a úsáideann an Ghaeilge tríd ateangaireacht comhuaineach curtha ar fáil i gcónaí.	£50,000 Córas Ateangaireachta a chur isteach	Costas faoi 2.1	Láithreach
3.2	**Billí a aistriú go comhuaineach sa Tionól**. Go mbeadh achan chéim de phróiseas bille nua a chur le chéile ar fáil i nGaeilge. Leanann seo rialacháin i bParlaimint na hEorpa. Déanfaidh sé níos fusa é an bille críochnaithe a fhoilsiú i nGaeilge a luaithe is atá sé réidh, agus ligfidh sé de pháirtithe leasmhara bheith plé leis an phróiseas ar fad i nGaeilge ar dhóigh i bhfad níos éifeachtaí.	0	Costas faoi 2.1	Taobh istigh de chúig bliana

Breakdown of the Act

	Explanation of the different sections of the Act	Starting cost or One Off Costs	Yearly Costs	Working Date
1	**Official Status**			
1.1	**It is affirmed that Irish is one of the official languages in the North (English as the other.)**	0	0	Immediately
2	**Translation Centre**			
2.1	**To establish a Central Translation Department in the Office of the Executive.** A staff of ten employees to function as support for the public companies. A Senior translator, and a team of interpreters and translators with expert knowledge on law termonolgy. They would facilitate correspondence in Irish in the Assembly, and a translation of bills and other publications that would have to be done by more than 100 public companies. The service in this unit should be at a level that the people can depend on public companies to fulfil their responsibilities to a satisfactory level. If the right investment is made in this centre, more money will saved on other aspects of the Act.	£100,000 Set-Up Cost	£500,000 Estimated Staff: 2 Interpreters 2 Law translators 5 Translators 1 Director	Immediately
3	**Irish in the Assembly**			
3.1	**Any MLA or member of the public should have the right to use Irish when they are engaging in debates in the Assembly, or as part of the work of committees and subcommittees of Stormont.** Through the provision of simultaneous translation, those who use Irish should not be disadvantaged in any way.	£50,000 To install an interpretation system	Cost below 2.1	Immediately
3.2	**Simultaneously Translation of Bills in the Assembly.** That every step of the new bill process is available in Irish. This follows European Parliament rules. This will make it easier to publish the bill in Irish as soon as it is ready, and it will allow the stakeholders to progress the process in Irish in much more effective manner.	0	Cost below 2.1	Within five years

4	Comhlachtaí Poiblí			
4.1	**Iniúchadh foirne.** Sprioc an Achta seo ná cearta reachtaíochta a thabhairt do Ghaeilgeoirí an Tuaiscirt, ach sin a dhéanamh ar bhonn phraiticiúil, oiread agus is féidir. Mar sin de, an chéad chéim na iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar fhoireann na seirbhísí poiblí le leibhéil Ghaeilge a mheas, ar mhaithe le bearnaí agus féidearthachtaí a mheas. Bheadh an iniúchadh déanta ar bhonn inmheánach, ach é bheith comhordaithe ag an Choimisinéir Teanga (CT).	0	Costas faoi dhualgas an CT	Láithreach
4.2	**Rangú ar na comhlachtaí bunaithe ar mhéid teagmhála a bhíonn acu leis an phobal, lonnaíocht na n-oifigí, éileamh áitiúil agus eile.** Bheadh liosta dualgais tugtha dóibh bunaithe ar an rangú sin. M.sh. bíonn an Comhairle Ealaíon ag plé leis an phobal go mion minic, ach is ar éigean go mbeadh aon phlé ag an 'Rivers Agency' leis an phobal. Mar sin de, bheadh dualgais/tosaíochtaí difriúla ag an chomhairle ealaíon ná mar a bheadh ag an Rivers Agency. Bheadh an rangú seo faoi stiúr an Choimisinéir Teanga. (Féach Aguisín 1)	0	Costas faoi dhualgas an CT	Láithreach
4.3	**Plean Oiliúna ar Úsáid & Ardú Feasachta na Gaeilge.** Go mbeidh plean oiliúna ar úsáid agus ardú feasachta na Gaeilge curtha i bhfeidhm in achan chomhlacht poiblí. Tá seo bunaithe ar an tuiscint go mbeidh oiliúint agus ardú feasachta de dhíth de bharr na hathruithe reachtúla a thagann leis an Acht seo, agus an tuiscint go laghdódh a leithéid d'oiliuint costais sa todhchaí. Freagrachtaí oiliúna: Costas aon uaire, ar nós traenáil cosaint pháistí nó traenáil ar chúrsaí comhionannais dírithe ar impleachtaí na hAchta don cuir chuige agus modhanna oibre na gcomhlachtaí poiblí.	£100,000 Costas oiliúna aon uaire - (Dearadh cúrsa, acmhainní agus soláthar cúrsa)	£100,000	Láithreach
4.4	**Cúrsaí Oiliúna Gaeilge** Cúrsaí dírithe ar fhoghlaim na Gaeilge ar fáil d'oibrithe na gcomhlachtaí poiblí. Bheadh seo oscailte d'oibrithe ó ghach cúlra, agus ag freastal ar achan leibheáil Gaeilge, (agus go háirithe iad siúd nach raibh aon teagmháil acu leis an Ghaeilge roimhe seo.)	0	€322,500 (bunaithe ar ~500 duine sa bhliain ag tabhairt faoi chúrsaí don earnáil phoiblí ó Ghaelchultúr – sin €3,220 an chomhlacht poiblí. Dar ndóigh, d'fheadfadh an Gael Acadamh in ann an cúram seo a chomhlíonadh nuair a bhunófar é)	

4	**Public Companies**			
4.1	**Scrutiny of Staff.** The aim of this act is to give legislative rights to speakers in the North, and to do this on a practical basis as much as possible. Therefore, the first step is to scrutinise public service staff to ascertain their level of Irish, to establish gaps and possibilities. The scrutinising would be done internally, but would be coordinated by the Language Commissioner (LC).	0	Cost of paying the Language Commissioner	Immediately
4.2	**Classification of the companies based on the amount of communication they have with the public, location of the officers, local demand and others.** A list of duties will be provided for the above based on that classification. E.g The Arts Council is often engaged with the public, but the Rivers Agency seldom have any engagement. Therefore, the Arts Council would have different duties/priorities than the Rivers Agency. This classification would be under the control of the Language Commissioner. (See addition 1)	0	Cost of paying the Language Commissioner	Immediately
4.3	**Training plan on the use and promotion of Irish Language awareness.** A training plan should be implemented on the use and promotion of Irish Language awareness in every public company. This is based on the understanding that training and promotion is needed because of the statutory changes that come with this act, and with the understanding that the cost of training will decrease in the future. Training responsibilities: One-off cost, such as child protection training or equality training focused on the implications regarding the approach and methodologies of the public organisations.	£100,000 One-off cost of training - (Design of course, resources agus supply of courses.)	£100,000	Immediately
4.4	**Irish Language Training Courses** Provide courses focused on teaching Irish to workers in public bodies. This will be open to workers from every background, and will be available for every level of Irish, (Especially those who had no contact with Irish before.)	0	€322,500 Based on 500 people per year taking courses of the public sort from Irish Culture - €3,220 per public company. However, there is a chance that the Irish Academy will be able to share this responsibility when it is founded.)	

4.5	**Go mbeidh an ceart ag aon saoránach comhfhreagras trí Ghaeilge le Ranna agus comhlachtaí Stáit** Le cinntiú go mbeidh seirbhís sásúil cuimsitheach agus gasta ar fáil d'aon saoránach a dhéanann comhfhreagras le haon Roinn nó Comhlacht Stáit, moltar go gcuirfear lárionad aistriúcháin ar bun.	0	Faoi chúram an 'Rannóg Lárnach Aistriúcháin'mar atá molta thuas	Láithreach
4.6	**Suíomhanna Gréasáin, Stáiseanóireacht, Foirmeacha srl. ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge.** Go minic is iad na rudaí sin is mó a úsáideann daoine le bheith ag plé le comhlachtaí poiblí, agus mar sin de tá sé tábhachtach iad a bheith ar fáil i nGaeilge. Is féidir bunús na hathruithe seo a chur i bhfeidhm de réir a chéile, nuair atá an comhlacht ag déanamh uasdátú nádúrtha ar stoc/córas s'acu féin nó nuair a ídítear an stoc reatha acu agus caithfear stoc breise nua a fháil. M.sh nuair a ritheann stoc stáiseanóireachta an chomhlachta amach, ordaíonn siad stáiseanóireacht dátheangach. Stáiseanóireacht: líon an-bheag focal. Beidh costas aon uaire ag an tús leis na córais cuí a chur i bhfeidhm, agus le hábhair srl. a aistriú. Is obair sin a ba chóir tairiscintí a chur amach fána choinne. I ndiaidh sin, titfidh gnáthchostais na ndualgas seo ar fhoireann na gcomhlachtaí agus an lárionad aistriúcháin, agus mar gheall ar oiliúint agus ar an obair a dhéantar, ba chóir go n-ísleodh an costas bliain i ndiaidh bliana.	£750,000 - £1,000,000[1] Uascostas aon uaire ar ábhar seasta shuíomhanna idirlíon a aistriú Bunús Foirmeacha aistrithe mar chuid de aistriú na suíomhanna. Costas aistrithe an stáiseanóireachta faoi chúram an Lárionad, agus líon an-bheag focal i gceist anseo. Costas aon uaire.	Baineann costas bliantúil le rudaí a phriontáil agus ábhar nua a aistriú, agus beidh sé seo laghdaithe go mór mar gheall ar an phróiseas cur i bhfeidhm (oiliúint, iniúchadh, agus uasdátú nádúrtha). Thitfeadh monatóireacht rialta agus leasuithe srl...faoi chúram an lárionad aistriúcháin, agus mar sin de, thitfeadh an costas fúthu chomh maith.	De Réir a Chéile,ag brath ar an rangú a dhéantar ar an chomhlacht faoi leith agus moltaí an CT, ach uasteorann 6 bliana
4.7	**Cinntiú go bhfuil Gaeilgeoirí ag teacht fríd an earnáil poiblí**. Beidh dualgais nua ar chomhlachtaí poiblí (féach 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6) agus beidh daoine le Gaeilge de dhíth, nó ina chuidiú mhór, le próiseas comhlíonta na bhfreagrachtaí sin a éascú. Ba chóir seo a bhunú ar chur chuige na Breataine Bige, áit a bhfuil dualgais ann ar ghá a chomhlíonadh, agus mar sin de is gá go bhfuil na fostaithe ábalta chuig na dualgais sin. Bheadh siad in ann achan rud eile a dhéanamh, ach san am chéanna, an obair bhreise ó thaobh na Gaeilge de a dhéanamh chomh maith. Ba chóir go mbeidh Gaeilge labhartha agus scríofa ag ar a laghad 10% do dhaoine a cheapfar amach anseo. Ach socrófar an céatadán deiridh do gach rannóg/comhlacht poiblí ar an rangú a dhéantar ag an Choimisinéir Teanga (féach Rannóg 9)	0	0	De réir a chéile, bunaithe ar iniúchadh an CT, ar cur i bhfeidhm polasaithe, agus ar bhearnaí aimsithe.

4.5	**Every citizen should be entitled to communicate through the medium of Irish with State Departments and bodies.** To ensure that a satisfactory and comprehensive service is available to any citizen who makes contact with a State Body or Department, it is recommended that a Translation Centre is established.	0	Under the auspices of the 'Central Translations Department' as mentioned above.	Immediately
4.6	**Availability of Websites, Stationary, Forms, etc, in Irish** These are regularly the most often used by the public when dealing with public bodies, and it is important that these are available in Irish. The majority of these changes can be implemented gradually, when the body is conducting its natural update of stock/ systems or when stocks run out and new stock has to be ordered. For example, when stationary stock runs out, new stock must be ordered, so that body should order bilingual stationary. Stationary: Very small amount of words. The one off costs of implementing such a system and of translating subject matter, etc, will be small. This type of work should be put out to tender. Subsequently, the normal costs of these duties will fall to the staff of the bodies and the Translation Unit, and as a result of the work that it done, the costs should decrease year after year.	£750,000 - £1,000,000[1] Maximum one-off cost to translate permanent website material Majority of forms will be translated as part of translation of sites. Cost of translation of stationery responsibility of the Translation Centre, and this only involves a small amount of words. One-off cost	Yearly costs involve printing material and translating new material, and this will be considerably reduced as a result of the implementation process (training, investigation, and normally updating). Regularly monitoring and amendments will be the responsibility of the translation centre, and therefore, costs will also fall accordingly.	Gradually, depending on the categorisation within which the body falls and the recommendations of the Language Commissioner, and a maximum of 6 years.
4.7	**Ensure that Irish speakers are progressing in the public sector.** Public bodies will have a new duty (see 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6) and Irish speakers will be required, or will be a great asset, in the process of facilitating these duties. This should be based on the Welsh approach, where duties must be adhered to, and therefore there is a need for employees who are able to perform these duties. They would be able to perform every other duty, but at the same time, be able to complete extra work involving Irish. 10% of those who are appointed should have both spoken and written Irish in the future. The final percentage, however, for every department/ public body will be decided upon according to the categorisation by the Language Commissioner. (see Section 9)	0	0	Gradually, based on the Language Commissioner's investigation, on the implementation of policy and of the gaps identified.

5	Rialtas Áitiúil			
5.1	**Seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil trí sholáthar díreach, nó trí aistriúchán más gá:** ● Comhfhreagras (féach 4.5) ● Úsáid na Gaeilge i Seomraí na gComhairlí (bunaithe ar mhúnla an tionóil agus go dtógfar seo isteach de réir a chéile) ● Úsáid ainmneacha Gaelacha leis na comhairlí ● Éascú deiseanna foghlamtha Gaeilge agus imeachtaí cultúrtha trí Ghaeilge a reáchtáil ● Foirmeacha don phobal a bheith ar fáil trí Ghaeilge ● Seirbhísí níos leithne bheith ar fáil trí Ghaeilge (Is féidir go leor de seo a dhéanamh trí iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an fhoireann reatha agus iad siúd le scileanna teanga a chur I dtreo na hoibre seo. Aon áit a bhfuil bearna aitheanta, is féidir seo a líonadh trí earcaíocht de réir mar a thagann postanna aníos.)	0 Níl gá le costas tosaithe/aon uaire anseo nó tá an obair seo á dhéanamh ag roinnt comhairlí áitiúla mar atá, mar sin de tá an infreastruchtúr ann cheana féin agus ní gá anois ach an obair chéanna á dhéanamh sna comhairlí ar fad.	£500,000 Múnla céanna le Rannóg a 4 Tá roinnt den obair seo á dhéanamh cheana féin, agus mar sin de, bheadh réime costais ag baint le seo, ag brath ar: a) cad atá siad ag déanamh faoi láthair; b) líon na gcainteoirí i bpobal na gcomhairlí iad féin. As an 11 ollchomhairle tá 7 gComhairle a chaitheann roinnt airgid cheana féin.	Láithreach
5.2	**Polasaí Gaeilge mar atá molta ag an Chairt Eorpach** Go gcuirfear Polasaí Gaeilge i bhfeidhm in achan comhairle ó thuaidh, a sholáthraíonn 'gníomhartha diongbháilte' mar atá molta ag an Chairt Eorpach. Ba choir seo a dhéanamh i gcomhairle le Foras na Gaeilge agus bunaithe ar riachtanais an phobal Gaeilge áitiúil agus ar mholtaí an Chairt Eorpach. Go gceapfar oifigeach Gaeilge ag achan comhairle chun an pholasaí a chur i gcrích agus go gcuireann na comhairlí maoiniú ar fáil do ghrúpaí seachtracha le haghaidh imeachtaí Gaeilge a reáchtáil.	Ní airgead breise atá i gceist anseo. Tá an obair ar siúl cheana féin de bharr an Chart Eorpacha. Go gcuireann siad á gcuid dualgais reatha i bhfeidhm - mar atá 5 chomhairle a dhéanamh cheanna.	Ní airgead breise atá i gceist anseo. Tá an obair ar siúl cheana féin de bharr an Chart Eorpacha	Láithreach

5	**Local Government**			
5.1	**Provide services through Irish through a direct provision, or through translation where necessary:** ● Correspondence (see 4.5) The use of Irish in Council Chambers (based on the structure of the assembly and that this will be gradually introduced) ● The use of Irish language names with the councils ● Facilitate Irish Language learning opportunities and organise cultural events through Irish. ● Forms for the public available in Irish ● Wider services available in Irish. (A considerable part of this can be done through investigation of current staff with the allocation of those with language skills towards this kind of work. Anywhere where gaps exist, this can be filled through recruitment as jobs arise)	0 A one-off or starting cost is not required because this work is being done by some of the councils as it is, and therefore the required infrastructure is already in place, and all that is needed now is for the work to be extended to all the councils.	£500,000 Same structure as Section 4. Some of this work is already being done, and therefore, a range of costs are associated, depending on: a) what they are doing at present; b) the number of speakers in the community of the given council From the 11 supercouncils there are 7 councils who spend some money already.	Immediately
5.2	**Irish Language Policy as recommended by the European Charter** An Irish Policy, as encouraged by the European Charter, should be implemented in every council in the North that sets out a scheme for providing 'worthwhile activities'. This should be done in collaboration with Foras na Gaeilge and based on the needs of the local Irish community on the advice of the European Charter. That every council employs an Irish officer to complete and coordinate their policies, and also make grants available for external groups to organise Irish language events.	There is no extra money involved here. The work is ongoing already as a result of the European Charter. That they implement their administrative duties – much like the other 5 councils are doing.	There is no extra money involved here. The work is ongoing already as a result of the European Charter.	Immediately

6	**Gaeilge sna Cúirteanna**			
6.1	**Deis labhartha láithreach.** Acht 1737, a chuireann cosc ar labhairt na Gaeilge sna cúirteanna, aisghairm láithreach. Faill a thabhairt do dhaoine a gcuid fianaise a thabhairt i nGaeilge, gan aon bhac nó míbhuntáiste don té a úsáideann í. Tá córas ateangaireachta ann sa Chúirt mar atá le gur féidir fianaise a chluinstin i roinnt teangacha nach iad an Béarla iad, ach níl an Ghaeilge ina measc faoi láthair. Bheadh sé an-simplí an seirbhís seo a chur ar fáil don Ghaeilge. Má bhíonn duine ar bith ag iarraidh foirmeacha a úsáid/líonadh as Gaeilge go mbeidh na cúirteanna in ann an tseirbhís aistriúcháin a úsáid. Ós rud é gur comhlacht poiblí iad, titeann an tSeirbhís Chúirteanna & Binsí faoi Rannóg 4.	0	£10,000[2] Tá comhlacht a chuireann an ateangaireacht ar fáil sna cúirteanna mar atá – costas an-bheag i gceist leis an Ghaeilge a chur le liosta na dteangacha ateangaireachta acu.	Láithreach
6.2	**Imeachtaí Cúirte trí Gaeilge** Cead a thabhairt imeachtaí cúirte ar nós Cúirteanna Teaghlaigh srl. a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge má aontaíonn an dá pháirtí. Tá cleachtas ann mar atá le breithiúna a fháil 'ar iasacht' ón deisceart le bheith i gceannas ar roinnt cásanna cúirte. Níl de dhíth anseo ach chun an scéim sin a leathnú le gur féidir breithiúna le Gaeilge a fháil ar iasacht sa chás nach bhfuil ceann le Gaeilge ar fáil ó thuaidh cheana féin. Chun an foráil seo a éascú, thiocfadh 'Lá Gaeilge' a reachtáil sa chúirt uair sa mhí. Shabhálfadh sin costas nó, mar shampla, ní bheadh ach an cléireach cúirte amháin de dhíth don lá ar fad. Bheadh na cásanna seo ag tarlú cibé, beag beann ar an teanga labhartha, agus mar sin tagann aon chostas breise ón gá le breitheamh & cléireach cúirte le Gaeilge.	0	Buiséad de £50,000 sa bhliain idir 6.2 agus 6.3 leis na forálacha sin a éascú	Taobh istigh de 5 bliana
6.3	**Caigne Sibhialta** Cead caigne sibhialta a ghlacadh i gcoinne an Stáit trí Ghaeilge. Sin é, go mbeadh imeachtaí na gcúirteanna sna cásanna sin trí Ghaeilge más sin an rud a ba mhaith leis an ghearánaí. Is féidir an cur chuige céanna le 6.2 a úsáid leis an bhonneagar riachtanach don fhoráil seo a chur i bhfeidhm	0	Buiséad de £50,000 sa bhliain idir 6.2 agus 6.3 leis na forálacha sin a éascú	Taobh istigh de 5 bliana
7	**Limistéir Gaeltachta/Líonra Gaeilge**			
7.1	**Aitheantas ón Fheidhmeannas.** Go mbeadh aitheantas reachtúil ann do cheantair ar an mhúnla céanna a fhaightear ó dheas. Beidh maoiniú na gceantar ag teacht ó Fhoras na Gaeilge mar atá sé ó dheas do na gréasáin Gaeilge ansin.	0 – Tá na critéir ann cheana féin	0	Láithreach

6	**Irish in the Courts**			
6.1	**The opportunity to speak immediately** Immediate repeal of the 1737 Act which prohibits the use of Irish in the courts. People should have the opportunity to present their evidence in Irish, without hindrance or disadvantage to the user. There is already an interpretation system in the court which enables one to give evidence in a number of languages aside from English, but Irish is not currently included. It would be very straightforward to provide this service in Irish. Should anyone wish to use or fill in forms in Irish, the courts should be able to use a translation service. As this is a public body, the Courts and Benches service falls under Section 4.	0	£10,000[2] A company already exists which provides interpretation services in the courts – it would cost very little to add Irish to the list of languages which are interpreted.	Immediately
6.2	**Court Proceedings in Irish** To allow for court proceedings, such as the Family Court etc., to be heard in Irish, if both parties agree. As it is, a practice exists whereby judges are sometimes 'borrowed' from the south to hear cases. All that would be required here would be the widening of that scheme so that it is possible to 'borrow' judges with Irish from the south, in the event that Irish speaking judges are not readily available. A practical solution to enable this provision, would be to allow for monthly 'Irish Days' in the courts. This would save costs as only one court clerk would be necessary for the day's procedures. It's worth noting that these court proceedings would be happening regardless of the spoken language, and therefore the extra cost comes from making sure the judge and clerks can operate through Irish.	0	Budget of £50,000 per year between 6.2 and 6.3 to enable these provisions	Within 5 years
6.3	**Civil Actions** To allow for civil actions against the state to be taken and heard through Irish. That is, that the court proceedings in these actions are done through the medium of Irish if that is what the complainant would like. The infrastructure necessary to implement this provision could be developed by a similar method as in 6.2.	0	Budget of £50,000 per year between 6.2 and 6.3 to enable these provisions	Within 5 years
7	**Gaeltacht Areas/ Irish Language Networks**			
7.1	**Recognition from the Executive** Areas should be afforded the same legislative recognition in the same way as in the South. Funding for these areas would come from Foras na Gaeilge in the same way as happens for the Irish language networks in the South.	0 –Criteria already exists	0	Immediately

8	Logainmneacha			
8.1	**Stádas Oifigiúil na Logainmneacha** Gur féidir na leaganacha Gaeilge de na logainmneacha a úsáid in aon chomhfhreagras agus go bhfuil siad in úsáid i gcomharthaí fáilte agus eile.	0	0	Láithreach
8.2	**Scéim na Logainmneacha** Grúpa oibre a chur ar bun le logainmneacha oifigiúla a mholadh. Thógfadh seo ar an obair a bhí ar siúil ag Tionscadal na Logainmneacha sular cuireadh deireadh leis, agus bheadh teorann de roinnt blianta ann, nó tá méid teoranta oibre le déanamh anseo. Is féidir seo a nascadh le hobair Coiste na Logainmneacha & www.logainm.ie	0	c.£150,000 (Foireann de bheirt, suíomh agus costais eile)	Láithreach (meastar go mbeidh teorann 5 bhliana leis an obair)
8.3	**Comharthaíocht Bóthair** Go mbeidh comharthaíocht bóthair dátheangach. Tá tábhacht le feiceálacht na Gaeilge – níor chóir di bheith i gcló difriúil nó ag méid níos lú. Féidearthacht ann seo a dhéanamh sa tslí chéanna le uasdátú ar an stáiseanóireacht (féach 4.6) – é déanta de réir a chéile agus athruithe a dhéanamh ar chomharthaíocht i rith ama, ach teorann ama leis fosta.	£1.5m sa bhliain idir 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, thar tréimhse feidhmeannais chun an próiseas a éascú (Beagchostas deartha agus costas aon uaire *muna dtarlaíonn uasdátú roimh críoch an teorainn ama*)	0	De réir a chéile ach uasteorann ama de naoi mbliana
8.4	**Comharthaíocht na Rialtas Áitiúil** Go mbeidh comharthaíocht na gcomhlachtaí poiblí agus na rialtas áitiúil dátheangach. Struchtúr ar nós 6.3 in úsáid, sin é go mbeadh na comharthaí athraithe de réir mar a dhéantar uasdátú orthu go nádúrtha, ach é bheith déanta taobh istigh de theorann ama.	£1.5m sa bhliain idir 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, thar tréimhse feidhmeannais chun an próiseas a éascú Costas aon uaire a bheadh ann, *muna bhfuil uasdátú déanta roimh chríoch an teorainn ama.*	0	3 bhliain de chomhlacht i gCatagóir A 5 bliana do cheann i gcatagóir B 7 mbliana do chatagóir C
8.5	**Comharthaíocht na gComhlachtaí Poiblí** Go mbeidh comharthaíocht na gcomhlachtaí poiblí agus na rialtas áitiúil dátheangach. Struchtúr ar nós 6.3 in úsáid, sin é go mbeadh na comharthaí athraithe de réir mar a dhéantar uasdátú orthu go nádúrtha, ach é bheith déanta taobh istigh de theorann ama.	£1.5m sa bhliain idir 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, thar tréimhse feidhmeannais chun an próiseas a éascú Costas aon uaire a bheadh ann, *muna bhfuil uasdátú déanta roimh chríoch an teorainn ama.*	0	3 bhliain de chomhlacht i gCatagóir A 5 bliana do cheann i gcatagóir B 7 mbliana do chatagóir C

8	Place-Names			
8.1	**Official Status of Place-Names** Irish Language versions should be permissible in any correspondence and should be used in Welcome signs, etc.	0	0	Immediately
8.2	**Place-Names' Scheme** A working group should be established to recommend official place-names. This will progress the work previously undertaken by the Place-Names Project before it was ended, and will be restricted to number of years work, as the work which has to be completed here is limited. This can be linked to the Place-Names' Committee's work and to www.logainm.ie	0	c.£150,000 (2 members of staff, office and other costs)	Immediately (it is estimated that this work will take 5 years)
8.3	**Road Signs** Road signs should be bilingual. It is important that Irish is visible – it should not be in different print or smaller. It is possible that this can be done in the same way as the updating of the stationary (see 4.6) – completed gradually and over a fixed period of time.	£1.5m per year idir 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, over the period of the executive to facilitate the process. (Limited design cost and one-off cost *if updating does not occur before the end of a fixed period of time)*	0	Gradually, with an upper limit of nine years
8.4	**Signage at Local Government Level** Signage used by public bodies and by local government should be bilingual. A structure like that in 6.3 should be used, that is that the signs should be changed as they are naturally updated, but this should be done within a fixed time.	£1.5m per year idir 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, over the period of the executive to facilitate the process. (Limited design cost and one-off cost *if updating does not occur before the end of a fixed period of time)*	0	3 years for a body in Category A 5 years for one in Category B 7 years for one in Category C
8.5	**Signage within Public Bodies** Signage within public bodies and at local government level should be bilingual. A structure such as that in 6.3 should be used, ie the signs should be changed as they are naturally updated, and this should be done within a set time.	£1.5m per year idir 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, over the period of the executive to facilitate the process. (Limited design cost and one-off cost *if updating does not occur before the end of a fixed period of time)*	0	3 years for a body in Category A 5 years for one in Category B 7 years for one in Category C

8.6	**Comharthaíocht Sráide** Go mbeadh reachtaíocht curtha i bhfeidhm ag leibhéal na gcomhairlí áitiúla a chinnteoidh go bhfuil comharthaí sráide dátheangacha ar fáil i nGaeilge áit a bhfuil éileamh ann. Má tá 50% de na freagróirí ag lorg comharthaíocht sráide Gaeilge, ba chóir sin a chur ar fáil agus seo a bheith aitheanta sa dlí.	0 Struchtúr ann cheana féin sna comhairlí áitiúla – díreach tá na rialacha le hathrú	Ag brath ar éileamh	Láithreach – níl i gceist ach rialacha a athrú
9	**Oifig an Choimisinéir Teanga**			
9.1	**Bunú Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga** Le cinntiú go mbeidh na forálacha luaite san Acht curtha i bhfeidhm bunófar Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga agus cheapfar Coimisinéir Teanga. Is iad na cúraimí a bheidh ar an oifig ná: ● **Cinntiú go bhfuil an tAcht á chur i bhfeidhm.** Súil a choinneáil ar na codanna difriúla den Acht agus cinntiú go bhfuil na páirtithe/comhlachtaí srl. ábhartha ag comhlíonadh a gcuid freagrachtaí taobh istigh den amscála cuí. Cuid de seo is iad na dualgais atá leagtha amach i 4.1, 4.2 & 4.7 ● **Gearáin.** Córas Gearáin a chur i bhfeidhm le go mbeidh bealach ag an phobal gearán a dhéanamh má tá ag teipeadh ar an stát nó ar chomhlachtaí poiblí dualgais s'acu faoin Acht seo, agus dualgais Gaeilge eile, a chomhlíonadh go sásúil ● **Scagadh ar bhillí ó thaobh na Gaeilge de** Faoin reachtaíocht comhionannais, tá dualgas ann scagadh a dhéanamh ar bhillí molta ó thaobh tionchar comhionannais de. Bheadh sé i gceist an rud céanna a dhéanamh ó thaobh na Gaeilge de. ● **Cumhachtaí** Go mbeadh cumhachtaí imscrúdaithe ag an Choimisinéir, lena dhearbhú cé acu an bhfuil bunús leis na gearáin a thagann fríd; Go mbeadh cumhachtaí ag an CT tuairiscí and ráitis cháinte a dhéanamh, go poiblí más gá; Ar nós an múnla atá ann sa Bhreatain Bheag, go mbeadh cumhachtaí fíneáilte ag Oifig an Choimisinéara sa chás go dteipeann ar chomhlacht poiblí go millteanach ó thaobh a ndualgais reachtúla de. ● **Athbhreithniú** Go mbeidh athbhreithniú ar fheidhmiú an Achta a ghlacann ar bord athruithe daonáirimh agus déimeagrafaigh (is pobal óg é pobal na Gaeilge), agus a dhéanann moltaí ó thaobh uasdátú achta. Go ndéanfar an tAthbhreithniú seo gach 5 bhliain agus go ndéanfar seo trí: a) Scagadh ar statisicí; b) Saineolas Áitiúil agus Idirnaisiúnta; c) Comhairliúchán leis an phobal. Cuirfear na leasuithe molta faoi bhráid an tionól.	0	£300,000 - £400,000[4] Costas Iomlán in aghaidh na bliana	Láithreach

8.6	**Street Signage** Legislation should be put in place at local council level to ensure that bilingual street signage should be available in Irish where there is a demand for it. Therefore, if 50% of the respondents seek street signage in Irish, this should be made available and be recognised in law.	0 A structure is already in place at local council level – regulation to be changed.	Depending on demand	Immediately – all that is required here is a change in regulation
9	**The Office of the Language Commissioner**			
9.1.	**The Establishment of the Office of the Language Commissioner** To ensure the implementation of the provisions set out in the Act the Office of the Language Commissioner shall be established & a Language Commissioner shall be appointed. The responsibilities of the office shall include: ● **Ensuring that the Act is being implemented** To monitor the various parts of the Act and to ensure that the relevant parties / bodies etc fulfilling their responsibilities within the appropriate timeframe. Part of these are the duties set out in 4.1, 4.2 & 4.7 ● **Complaints.** To implement a Complaints System so that the public will have the means to make a complaint if the state or public bodies are failing to satisfactorily fulfil their obligations under this Act, and also including other Irish language obligations. ● **To screen Bills in relation to the Irish Language** Under equality legislation, there is a duty to screen proposed bills in relation to their impact on equality. It would be the intention to perform similar screening in relation to the Irish language. ● **Powers** The Commissioner would have powers of investigation, to establish if the complaints that come through are justified; that the Commissioner have the powers to make critical reports and statements, publicly if necessary; similar to the model in existence in Wales, that the Office of the Language Commissioner would have powers to serve fines in the case of serious failings by a public body in relation to its statutory obligations. ● **Review** That there is a review of the implementation of the Act, which considers census and demographic changes (the Irish language community is a young community), and which makes recommendations in relation to the updating of the Act. That this Review be carried out every 5 years and that this is carried out through: a) Analysis of statistics; b) Local and International expertise; c) Consultation with the public. The proposed amendments should be placed before the assembly.	0	£300,000 - £400,000[4] Total Cost per annum	Immediately

10	**Na Meáin**			
10.1	**Craoltóireacht Gaeilge ar BBC** Go mbeadh tagairt do chraoltóireacht Ghaeilge teilifíse agus raidió, agus do sheirbhísí eile meán, seirbhísí ar líne san áireamh, i gCairt Ríoga an BBC, agus go leagfar amach ann coimitmintí ó thaobh na Gaeilge de. Chinnteodh seo go mbeadh níos mó Gaeilge le fáil ar sheirbhísí an BBC agus go mbeadh an costas leis sin a dhéanamh ag teacht ó bhuiséid reatha an BBC. Faoi láthair caitear 10 n-oiread an méid airgid ar sheirbhísí Gaedhlige ar an BBC ná seirbhísí Gaeilge in ainneoin go bhfuil níos mó Gaeilgeoirí ó thuaidh na lucht labhartha na Gáidhlige san Alban, dar leis an daonáireamh. Measann muid go mbeadh ar an BBC ar a laghad £10m a chaitheamh ar sheirbhísí Gaeilge (suas ó c.£2m mar atá faoi láthair). Deis é seo, nó go mbeadh níos mó d'airgead an BBC á chaitheamh sa Tuaisceart.	0	Costas ag teacht amach as buiséid reatha an BBC.	Láithreach
11	**Oideachas**			
11.1	**Sainmhíniú dleathach i leith an 'dualgais reachtúil' don Ghaeloideachas** Go gcuirfear plean oibríochtúil le chéile chun forbairt agus fás na Gaelscolaíochta a éascú, ón naíonra go dtí an dara leibhéal, agus go mbeidh an Roinn Oideachais freagrach as an phlean seo a chur i gcrích. Go dtitfidh monatóireacht ar chuir i bhfeidhm an phlean faoi chúram an C.T.	Costas ó bhuiséid an RO	Costas ó bhuiséid an RO (Go ndéanfar seo a dhaighniú agus a shoiléiriú trí Straitéis na Gaeilge.)	Láithreach
11.2	**An Ghaeloideachas ar chomhchéim leis an oideachas trí mheán an Bhéarla** Go mbíonn dualgas ar an stát an plé agus freastal cuí céannaí a dhéanamh ar earnáil na Gaelscolaíochta agus atá ar fáil don earnáil Béarla, agus sin a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge. Cuimsíonn seo a leithéidí de sheirbhísí sláinte, tacaíocht sainriachtanais, acmhainní. Go mbeidh siad ar chomhchéim sa dá theanga. Is féidir seo a dhéanamh trí iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an fhoireann reatha agus iad siúd le scileanna teanga a chur i dtreo na hoibre seo. Aon áit a bhfuil bearna aitheanta, is féidir seo a líonadh trí earcaíocht de réir mar a thagann postanna aníos. Nach mbeidh páistí, tuismitheoirí ná scoileanna faoi mhíbhuntáiste de thairbhe an rogha teanga. Glacfaidh seo san áireamh an borradh ollmhór atá ag tarlú in san earnáil seo bliain i ndiaidh bliana.	Costas ó bhuiséad an RO	Costas ó bhuiséad an RO	Láithreach

10	**The Media**			
10.1	**Irish Language Broadcasting on the BBC** That Irish language television and radio broadcasting, and other media services, including online services, are referred to in the Royal Charter of the BBC, and that commitments are set out in relation to the Irish language. This would ensure that there would be more Irish language included among the services of the BBC and that the costs for this would come from the current budget of the BBC. At present, 10 times more money is spent on Scottish Gaelic services on the BBC that Irish language services, despite the fact that there are more Irish speakers in the north than there are Scottish Gaelic speakers in Scotland, according to the census. We estimate that the BBC would need to spend at least £10m on Irish language services (up from c. £2m as is currently the case). This is an opportunity, as more money from the BBC would be spent in the North.	0	Cost to come from current BBC budget	Immediately
11	**Education**			
11.1	**The 'statutory obligation' regarding Irish-Medium Education legally defined** That an operational plan be put together to facilitate the development and growth of Irish-medium education, from nursery to secondary level, and that the Education Department be responsible for the implementation of this plan. That responsibility for the monitoring of the implementation of the plan falls under the remit of the Language Commissioner.	Costs from the budgets of the Dept. of Education	Costs from the budgets of the Dept. of Education (that this is consolidated and clarified through the Irish Language Strategy)	Immediately
11.2	**Irish-medium Education to have equality with English-medium Education** That the state has a duty to deal with, and offer the same appropriate support, for the Irish-medium sector as is available for the English-medium sector, and to carry this out through the Irish language. This includes such matters as health services, special needs support, resources. That they be equally available in both languages. This can be carried out through an audit of current staff and directing those with the language skills towards this work. Any area in which a gap is identified, this can be filled via recruitment as and when posts emerge. That neither children, parents nor schools are disadvantaged as a result of their language choice. This will take into account the very significant development that is occurring in this sector year on year.	Costs from the budgets of the Dept. of Education	Costs from the budgets of the Dept. of Education	Immediately

11.3	**An Ghaeilge sa Chóras Béarla** Ba cheart teacht a bheith ag tuismitheoirí, mar cheart, ar theagasc na Gaeilge, mar ábhar scoile, dá bpáistí sa chóras Béarla ag gach leibhéal (réamhscolaíocht, bunscolaíocht agus iar-bhunscolaíocht), nuair is léir éileamh chuige sin. Ba chóir dualgas a chur ar údaráis soláthair oideachais teagasc na Gaeilge a fhorbairt ag na trí leibhéal agus ba chóir dualgas a bheith orthu a chinntiú go bhfuil: • deiseanna bunoiliúna agus oiliúna inghairme ar fáil le foireann mhúinteoireachta bheith ar fáil chuige sin ag na trí leibhéal; • curaclam cuí ann le teagasc na Gaeilge a éascú agus • áiseanna fóirsteanacha ann do chur i gcrích an churaclaim sin.	Costas ó bhuiséad an RO	Costas ó bhuiséad an RO	Láithreach
11.4	**An obair óige Gaeilge ar chomhchéim leis an obair óige trí mheán an Bhéarla** Go mbíonn dualgas ar an stát an plé agus freastal cuí céannaí a dhéanamh ar earnáil na hoibre óige Gaeilge agus atá ar fáil don earnáil Béarla agus sin a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge. Go n-aithnítear tábhacht na hoibre óige Gaeilge i dtaca le cúrsaí sealbhaithe teanga de (agus eile) agus go leanann an tÚdarás Oideachais plean oibríochtúil na roinne (féach 9.1) thuas i dtaca le soláthar seirbhísí óige trí Ghaeilge de. Go ndéanfar acmhainní, tacaíocht agus maoiniú cuí a chur ar fáil do sholáthraithe óige Gaeilge agus go mbíonn teacht ag daoine óga le Gaeilge ar sheirbhísí óige trí Ghaeilge (gníomhaíochtaí faoin spéir, clubanna óige áitiúla srl...) Faoi láthair, tá buiséad £33.1 milliún sa bhliain ag an seirbhís Óige. Caitheann an tÚdarás Oideachais c£230,100 ar obair óige Gaeilge i gcoitinne. Is ionanna sin agus 0.69% den bhuiséid iomlán, in aineoinn gur ionann líon na bpáistí a fhreastalaíonn ar an Ghaeloideachas agus beagnach 3% den phobal scoile. Figiiúir atá ag méadú bliain i ndiaidh bliana.	0	Costas faoin Údarás Oideachais	Láithreach
#	**IOMLÁN NA gCOSTAS**	**c. £9m** (thar 5 bhliain tréimhse fheidhmeannais. Thig an costas a choinneáil níos ísle arís tríd dea-thoil agus réamhghníomhachas – is uasmhéid sin bunaithe ar an chás is measa.	**£2m** Tá roinnt rannóige eile nach bhfuil meastachán ann ar an chostas leo go fóill. Thig an costas a choinneáil níos ísle arís tríd dea-thoil agus réamhghníomhachas	
		c. £19m thar tréimhse fheidhmeannais = £3.8m sa bhliain		

11.3.	**Irish language in the English medium system** Parents should have access, as of right, to the teaching of Irish as a school subject for their children in the English-medium system at all levels (preschool, primary school and post-primary), where there is demand. Education authorities should have a duty placed upon them to develop the teaching of Irish as subject at all three levels, and a duty to ensure the following: • opportunities for initial teacher education, and in-service training for teachers at each of the three levels; • an appropriate curriculum for teaching Irish; and • appropriate resources for the implementation of that curriculum.	Costs from the budgets of the Dept. of Education	Costs from the budgets of the Dept. of Education	Immediately
11.4	**Irish language youth work to be equal to youth work through English** That the state has a duty to deal with, and offer the same appropriate support, for Irish-medium youth work as is available for the English-medium sector, and to carry this out through the Irish language. That recognition is given to the importance of Irish language youth work in relation to language acquisition (and other matters) and that the Education Authority follows the Departments operational plan (see 9.1) above in relation to the provision of youth services through Irish. That appropriate resources, support and funding is made available for Irish language youth providers and that young Irish speakers have access to youth services in the Irish language (outdoor activities, local youth clubs etc) At present, the Youth Service has an annual budget of £33.1 million. The Education Authority spends c£230,100 on Irish language youth work in general. That is equal to 0.69% of the entire budget, in spite of the fact that children attending Irish-medium education make up almost 3% of the school population. A figure which is increasing year on year.	0	Cost under the Education Authority	Immediately
#	**TOTAL COSTS**	**c. £9m** (over 5 years lifespan of executive) The cost can be kept lower still through goodwill and proactivity – this is the maximum amount based on the worst case scenario	**£2m** There are a number of other sectors where an estimate has not yet been made regarding costs. The costs can be kept lower still through goodwill and proactivity	
		c. £19m over the lifespan of an executive = £3.8m per annum		

Aguisín 1: Rangú ar na Comhlachtaí Poiblí

Tá sé i gceist cur i bhfeidhm an Achta seo a dhéanamh chomh praicticiúil inoibrithe agus ar féidir, agus go mbeadh gnáthphlé an phobail le heagraíochtaí an stáit mar thosaíocht a dhéanann an cur i bhfeidhm sin a threorú.

Leis sin, ba chóir rangú a dhéanamh ar na comhlachtaí poiblí ar fad ó thuaidh, agus iad a chur isteach i dtrí chatagóir difriúil: A, B & C. Bheadh an rangú seo déanta ag an Choimisinéir Teanga bunaithe ar iniúchadh a dhéantar ar na dualgais éagsúla atá ag comhlachtaí féin agus an méid teagmháil a bhíonn ann eatarthu féin agus an pobal, lonnaíocht na n-oifigí agus an éileamh tuartha áitiúil dá bharr, agus aon ghné ábhartha eile. Bheadh na dualgais do gach chatagóir molta ag an gCoimisinéir Teanga agus thógfadh siad na dualgais luaite thuas, ar nós stáiseanóireacht, polasaí earcaíochta, srl.. san áireamh. Is iarracht é seo foghlaim ó roinnt de na fadhbanna a bhí ann leis na scéimeanna teanga sa deisceart, nó aithneodh sé na difríochtaí idir na comhlachtaí éagsúla agus bhunódh sé na dualgais acu ar an idirghníomhú a dhéanann siad leis an phobal.

Catagóir C - An Bunleibhéal: Bronnta ar na comhlachtaí sin nach mbíonn móran plé acu a chóir ar bith leis an phobal. Bheadh bunleibhéail dualgais ag na comhlachtaí seo, agus spriocdhátaí níos faide acu leis na dualgais sin a chomhlíonadh.
Sampla: Rivers Agency

Catagóir B: Bronnta ar na comhlachtaí sin a bhíonn ag plé leis an phobal go measartha minic, ach a mbíonn gnéanna ar leith dá gcuid oibre a dhéantar go hinmheánach. Dualgais breise acu, anuas ar na dualgais sin a bhíonn ar na comhlachtaí sin i gCatagóir C, agus spriocdhátaí níos giorra chomh maith.
Sampla: Uisce TÉ

Catagóir A: Bronnta ar na comhlachtaí is mó a bhíonn ag plé leis an phobal ar bhonn laethúil, agus an tuigbheáil gur is mó seans go mbeidh Gaeilgeoirí ar lorg seirbhís Gaeilge uathu. Bheadh na dualgais a thiteann ar na comhlachtaí i gCatagóir A & B ar na comhlachtaí sa chatagóir seo. Ach chomh maith, is iad seo na comhlachtaí poiblí is tábhachtaí ó thaobh idirghníomhú leis an phobal de, agus mar sin, bheadh ag dúil go ndéanfadh na comhlachtaí sa rannóg seo fíoriarracht ó thaobh na Gaeilge de.
Sampla: An Roinn Oideachais

Appendix 1: Classification of Public Bodies

The intention is to make the implementation of this act as practical and workable as possible, prioritising the way in which the public normally deals with state organisations and using that as a guide in the implementations of the act.

With this in mind, all public bodies in the north should be classified according to three different catagories: A, B and C. Classification would be carried out by the Language Commissioner based on an audit of each public body's obligations and on the amount of communication they have with the public, the location of their offices, expected demand for services locally and any other relevant factors. The Language Commissioner would make recommendations in regard to the obligations in each category, including those mentioned above, such as stationery, recruitment policy etc. This particular approach attempts to encompass the lessons learned from the problems faced in the south in respect to language schemes in that it recognises the differences between the various bodies: obligations would be based on the type of interaction each one has with the public.

Category C – Basic Level: Public bodies with very little direct dealings with the public. Such organisations would have basic level obligations, with generous deadlines for fulfilling them.
Example: Rivers Agency

Category B: Public bodies that deal directly with the public quite often, but that also perform certain aspects of their work internally. They would have other duties in addition to those for Category C public bodies, with shorter deadlines too.
Example: Northern Ireland Water

Category A: Public bodies who deal directly with the public on a daily basis: organisations whose services Irish speakers are most likely to want to use. Duties for public bodies in this category would include those in Categories B and C. Any public bodies included in this category would be those that are most important in terms of interaction with the public. It would be expected that they would make sincere efforts to use Irish.
Example: Department of Education

Aguisín 2: Nótaí ar na Costais:

1. Costas Suíomhanna: tá ~210,000 focal ar shuíomh na roinne pobail, ceann de na suíomhanna rialtais is mó dá bhfuil ann, a fhágann costas aistriúcháin aon uaire de ~£23,000 (bunaithe ar 11p an fhocail). Ar leibhéal difriúil tá 80,000 focal ar shuíomh comhlacht poiblí eile: An CVSNI. Ar an drochuair, níl na foilseacháin uaslódáilte curtha san áireamh ansin - díreach an ábhair seasta. Ó spléachadh a thabhairt ar na comhlachtaí poiblí ar fad (~100) bheadh, ar a mhó, 50 dóibh siúd agus suíomh acu. Ag glacadh leis go mbeidh raon i líon na bhfocal, bheadh idir £750,000-£1,000,000 réasúnta mar mheasúnú ar chostas aon uaire. 100,000 (meánmhéid focail) * 50*.11 = £550,000 (agus ansin ardaithe le bheith 100% clúdaithe.)

2. B'é €2,000 an costas iomlán a bhí ar an ateangaireacht don Ghaeilge sna seirbhísí cúirte ó dheas sa bhliain 2006. B'é €1,012 an costas in 2007. Sna blianta sin ní raibh an Ghaeilge in sa bharr 10 de na teangacha is mó úsáide sna cúirteanna ó dheas. Bheifeá ag súil go mbeadh éileamh níos lú ann ar an seirbhís seo ó thuaidh. Luaitear £10,000 anseo le go nglactar san áireamh go bhfuil roinnt breithimh ann ó dheas agus Gaeilge acu agus seans nach mbeadh an líon chéanna ann ó thuaidh. (Ach sin ráite, de réir coimisinéir teanga an deiscirt ní fiú trácht a dhéanamh ar an chostas a shabhálann breitheamh le Gaeilge sa deisceart nó is céatadán fíorbheag na cásanna sin).

3. Comharthaí na gcomhlachtaí poiblí. Tá 100 comhlacht poiblí ann. Meán chostas ó dheas de c.€2,200 ar chomharthaíocht. Fágann an figiúir thuas spás do chostais bhreise dóthuartha.

4. B'é c.€566,000 caiteachas na hoifige ó dheas in 2014, agus b'é c.€677,000 caiteachas na hoifige i 2015. Téann thart ar 70% den airgead sin ar thuarastal na foirne, foireann de cheathrar agus uilig ar thuarastal de níos mó ná €60,000 sa bhliain (an CT féin ar €120,000 sa bhliain). Bheadh gá socrú a dhéanamh ar an pá scála a bheadh i gceist ó thuaidh. Fosta, bheadh ceachtanna foghlamtha san Acht seo (Scéimeanna Teanga imithe agus athstruchtúrú déanta ar na dualgais sin m.sh), agus mar gheall ar an struchtúr difriúil air i gcomparáid leis an deisceart, tá ag dúil go laghdódh an 'réamhghníomhachas' sa phlean thuas obair/costais na hoifige. Fosta, tá níos lú comhlachtaí poiblí ann ó thuaidh, agus ní bheadh dualgas ag an CT (ag an phointe seo) súil a choinneáil ar a leithéidí Ollscoil Uladh msh. Sin uilig san áireamh, tá £300,000 - £400,000 réasúnta.

5. Costs for Websites: There are approximately 210,000 words on the Department of Communities website, which is among the biggest of all government websites. This cost for translation would be one-off cost of around £23,000 (based on a rate of 11p per word). There are 80,000 words on the CVSNI website. This figure pertains to fixed content and does not include uploaded publications. A cursory glance at all public bodies (approximately 100 in number) shows that 50 of them, at most, have a website. Considering the range of word counts involved, a reasonable estimate for one-off translation costs is £750,000-£1,000,000. This figure is reached using the following computation: 100,000 (average number of words) * 50 * 0.11 = £550,000 (plus an extra amount added to ensure all costs are fully covered.)

6. The total costs for Irish language interpretation by the courts service in the south in 2006 was €2,000; the costs for 2007 were €1,012. In these two years, Irish was not among the ten most used languages in the courts in the south. One would expect the demand for this type of service in the north would be lower than in the south. The cost estimated is £10,000. The fact that some judges in the south have Irish has been taken into account, as has the possibility there wouldn't be the same number of Irish speaking judges in the north. (Having said this, according to the Language Commissioner in the south, the costs saved in the south by having an Irish speaking judge is negligible since the percentage of relevant cases is very small).

7. Signs for public bodies: There are 100 public bodies. The average cost for signage in the south is around €2,200. Unpredictable extra costs are factored into the above figure.

8. The expenditure for the office in the south in 2014 was around €566,000, with the 2015 cost coming to around €677,000. Approximately 70% of this money is spent on staff salaries: a team of four on salaries of more than €60,000 per annum (the Language Commissioner earns €120,000 per annum). A decision would need to be taken about the payscale for the north. Lessons would also have been learned in respect to this act from the experiences in the south (for example, there would be no language schemes and obligations would be restructured). Additionally, due to the different structure being different to that in the south, it is expected the preparatory action taken according to the above plan would help reduce the amount of work and office costs involved. There are also less public bodies in the north, and the duties of the Language Commissioner (at this point) would not include monitoring organisations such as Ulster University. Taking all these factors into account, £300,000 - £400,000 is a reasonable estimate.

Tá an Ghaeilge á labhairt le breis agus 2,000 bliain agus tá sí ar an teanga scríofa Eorpach is arsa atá go fóill in úsáid sa lá atá inniu ann. Tá rian doshéanta fágtha ag an oidhreacht ríluachmhar ar ár dtírdhreach, ár gcultúr, agus ár muintir. Go deimhin, bhí an Ghaeilge mar phríomh-theanga labhartha ag an tromlach giota agus 150 bliain ó shin. Is scéal é nach n-insítear go minic gurbh Ghaeilgeoirí iad an tromlach a fuair bás nó a chuaigh ar eisimirce mar chuid den Ocras Mór.

Nuair a cháintear polaitiú na teanga, tá neamhaird nó easpa tuisceana á léiriú, nó is ceist pholaitiúil í an Ghaeilge. Ní de thaisme a bhfuil athbheochán le déanamh ar an teanga – is dá bharr polasaithe diúltacha ionsaitheacha in éadan na teanga, thar na céadta, a tháinig an titim suntasach ar líon na gcainteoirí. Bheadh an cur i bhfeidhm ar Acht Teanga ina gníomh dearfach ó thaobh dul i ngleic leis na lochtanna is laigí stairiúla sin.

Is i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta a rinneadh na chéad choimitmintí dearfacha i leith na teanga. Cinntíodh i gComhaontú Chill Rìmhinn go ndéanfaidh Westminster acht teanga a rith, ar nós na reachtaíochta agus na straitéisí in Eirinn agus sa Bhreatain Bheag.

Gan aon chosaint dhlíthiúil, níl na comhchearta céanna ag lucht labhartha na Gaeilge agus atá ag cainteoirí Breatnaise, Gaeilge na hAlban nó ag Gaeilgeoirí eile ar na hoileáin seo. Ag tagairt don cheart agus don deis atá agat do theanga dúchais 'a fhoghlaim agus a úsáid', luann an saineolaí teanga Fernand de Varennes gur 'bunchearta iad agus nach féidir iad a chlárú mar dheonú speisialta nó iad a láimhseáil le bunús pribhléide'.

In éagmais na mbuncheart siúd, tháinig an Ghaeilge slán agus faoi bhláth agus an athbheochan pobal-bhunaithe aitheanta go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta. n 2017 tá breis agus 6,000 duine ag fáil oideachais trí Ghaeilge agus tuar ann go mbeidh an dá oiread níos mó ann faoin am seo i gceann seacht mbliana. Gach seachtain, bíonn na mílte duine fásta ag fogh aim na teanga ag ranganna ar fud ár gcathracha agus bailte. Ina theannta sin, tá gréasán de choistí, craobhacha agus grúpaí áitiúla teanga i mbun gnímh i bpobail trasna na sé chontae, cuid acu ar na pobail is lú 113 deiseanna sóisialta ó thuaidh.

D'ainneoin pobal na Gaeilge á n-éileamh a gcearta go soiléir glórach, theip ar dheich mbliana den fheidhmeannas comhroinnte cumhachta na cearta siúd a chinntiú dóibh. Tá na cearta seo anois i gcroílár an dioscúrsa pholaitiúil. Tá tacaíocht ag móramh na bpáirtithe agus na feisirí MLA a toghadh le déanaí d'Acht Gaeilge. Shroich ár n-éilimh na Náisiúin Aontaithe mar aon e Comhairle na hEorpa. Tá deis stairiúil ann chun an cheist sheanbhunaithe seo a réiteach agus a chur ina ceart. Cuirfidh tabhairt isteach reachtaíochta ceart-bhunaithe cuí go mór le cneasú agus le hathmhuintearas, agus cuideoidh sé linn sochaí níos tuisceanaí agus ionchuimsithí a chruthú. Chuige sin, d'aithin buaiteoir gradaim Nobel, Seamus Heaney, an Ghaeilge mar ghné bhunúsach riachtanach atá de dhíth chun todhchaí pholaitiúil níos cuimsithí agus níos tuisceanaí a chruthú.

Ní le duine ar bith í an Ghaeilge, is linne ar fad í.

Tá muid ag éileamh go gcuirfí an tAcht seo i bhfeidhm anois chun go ndéanfaí cearta teanga a sholáthar, a chosaint agus a chur chun cinn do phobal reatha na Gaeilge ó achan chearn agus chúlra agus do na glúnta atá le teacht.

Appendix 3: Historical Context

The Irish language has been spoken for more than 2,000 years and is one of the oldest written European languages still in use today. This invaluable heritage has undeniably left a mark on our landscape and culture and on people here. Indeed, just over 150 years ago, Irish was the main language spoken by the majority of people on the island. A fact that isn't widely disseminated is that most of those who died or emigrated during the Great Famine were Irish speakers.

When criticism is made of the politicisation of the language, this shows little regard for or a lack of understanding of the Irish language question – it *is* a political matter. It is not by accident a language revival is needed: the number of speakers has dropped significantly as a result of hostile and aggressive policies against the language over the course of centuries. The implementation of a language act would be a positive move towards addressing historical faults and weaknesses.

The Good Friday Agreement heralded the first positive commitments in regard to the language. The St Andrew's Agreement ensured a language act , similar to the legislation and strategies in the Republic of Ireland and Wales would be passed by Westminster

In the absence of protections written into law, Irish speakers in the north do not enjoy the same rights as Welsh speakers, Scottish Gaelic speakers and other Irish speakers in Ireland. In respect to rights and opportunities 'to learn and use' one's own native language, language expert Fernand de Varennes has said these are basic rights that should not be considered as something to be granted in special cases only or on the basis of privilege.

Despite the absence of these basic rights, Irish has not only survived, but also blossomed, and the community led revival has been recognised on both a national and international level. In 2017, more than 6,000 people are receiving their education through the medium of Irish, and it is predicted this figure will double in the next seven years. Every week, thousands of adults attend classes in cities and towns to learn the language. As well as this, a network of committees, branches and local language groups is active in communities throughout the 6 counties, including in areas that are among the most socially disadvantaged of all.

In spite of the Irish language community's vigorous and clear demands for the fulfillment of their rights, ten years of Executive power sharing has seen a failure in ensuring this has happened. However, such rights are now at the heart of political discourse. The majority of parties and recently elected MLAs supports an Irish language act. Our demands have been noted by the United Nations and the Council of Europe. We now have a unique and historical opportunity to settle this long-running issue. The introduction of suitable rights based legislation will add greatly to healing and reconciliation and will help to create a more understanding and inclusive society. The Nobel Prize winner Séamus Heaney recognised the Irish language as a fundamental and necessary facet of a more inclusive and understanding future for the realm of politics.

No one owns the Irish language; we all own it.

We are calling for the implementation of this act now so that language rights are provided, protected and promoted for the existing Irish language community, no matter where they are and what their background is, and for the generations who will come after us.